

Thousands flee evil of 'ethnic cleansing'

INTO the early hours of yesterday morning, seven thousand people streamed out of the northern Bosnian town of Bosanski Novi to the safety of Karlovac in Croatia. Their tale concerns an evil not seen in Europe for fifty years. Mostly Muslims, they have fled terror, murder and "ethnic cleansing" resembling the prelude to the Nazi holocaust and Stalin's deportation of whole nations.

They talk of the transport of hundreds of people crushed into freight wagons, bodies floating down river, "disappearances" and of a brutal Serb mafia known as the "Spare Ribs". Unlike other Bosnian refugees, the thousands from Bosanski Novi have not fled fighting; they have been driven out by fear and expelled from their homeland. If their houses have not been burnt, they are being taken over by Serb refugees. These Bosnians are victims of the ideology of an ethnically pure greater Serbia.

Although Bosanski Novi had only a slight Serb majority, power was firmly in the hands of local Serbs because they constituted 60 per cent of the county's population. As Bosnia slipped into war the



After thousands of Bosnian Muslims were forced to seek refuge in Hungary earlier this month, hundreds more families in Bosnia-Herzegovina have been split up, packed on freight trains, shot at indiscriminately and expelled from their homeland. Tim Judah reports from Karlovac on the latest flood of refugees who have streamed into Croatia

local authorities secured military power by mobilising reservists, a call-up boycotted by Muslims. The police force was purged when Muslims refused to wear Serbian insignia. Since most people with guns and rifles had permits the authorities were able to collect the weapons, leaving Muslims with no means of defending themselves.

The ethnic purification of Bosanski Novi took place in two waves. In May, the residents of 11 nearby Muslim villages were rounded up at gunpoint and herded to one village. They were kept there for 18 days, crammed thirty to a house. They were then forced onto freight trains, men in the back wagons, women and children at the front. "As this was happening they fired on the crowds," Ennsuda Krilic, 37, said. "We saw thirty or forty dead." There were up to three hundred people in each wagon. There was no food or water for four days.

"You crouch, you faint, you come to, you faint," said Namka Eke, 31, whose baby was 15 days old at the time. Her sister Arifa said they knew the men who had forced them onto the trains. "They were our school friends and Serbian neighbours. They said they had been threatened with death if they did not drive us out. I don't believe them, they are all the same."

The Eke sisters said that at one point some girls aged about 18 and 19 had been taken off the trains, ostensibly to fetch water. They were not seen again. After five days of travelling the men were sent back and imprisoned in Bosanski Novi's sports stadium. The women and children were expelled to Croatia and, as the latest convoy streamed out of Bosanski Novi, they were waiting to be reunited with their menfolk and families.

While people were being driven from the

villages a steady purge began in the town. "At first we just sensed things," said Samir, a young musician. "People were arrested and accused of wanting to blow up the bridge." He said that the television reception had been switched from Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, to Belgrade, the Serb capital. On June 2, anti-tank weapons were used to destroy the town's two mosques.

The "Spare Ribs" donned uniforms and quickly gained a name as the most brutal of the five Serb armed groups in town. Muslim-owned cafes, shops and restaurants were blown up at night and houses were sprayed with bullets. An outlying suburb was shelled and houses were burnt down by men in camouflage uniforms. "There was not so much killing, it was just that nobody knew what was happening 100 metres away," Samir said.

The Bosnian town was festooned with Serb flags and Serb property was left untouched. The police launched raids to arrest able-bodied Muslim men. Almost all of those who have just arrived in Croatia said that they spent up to five days imprisoned in the sports stadium, and they estimated that up to a thousand people were held there.

Abdelhaid Dautovic, 23, said: "There

were 60 rounded up in my group. They fired into the air as they pushed us onto the bus. When we got there we were made to kneel with our hands behind our necks. They beat the older ones who could not do this with their rifle butts. We got tea and salami once a day and we slept in the shower and locker rooms by night. Everyone went to the toilet, one by one, once a day."

After a couple of days, Mr Dautovic said that the Serb guards asked for volunteers for their army. "About 150 went. They did it to protect their families."

The pattern was that after five days people were released. Meanwhile Muslims were sacked from their jobs and they hid indoors as Serbs patrolled the streets. A curfew was imposed, there was no electricity and all normal commercial activities ground to a halt.

While ordinary men passed through the stadium, local dignitaries, politicians and businessmen were taken to the Hotel Una, the headquarters of the Serbian military police. "I was kept for five days with a group of nine in the basement," said a

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UN rescue, page 12

TODAY IN THE TIMES

BURIED IN THE PAST



The cover-up of how Marilyn Monroe died was so successfully stage managed that it has taken 30 years to uncover the truth Saturday Review page 15

ALL IN THE MIND



Joe Joseph contemplates an out-of-the-body experience with a virtually real sex partner Saturday Review page 26

OUT IN THE OPEN



Frances Bissell presents recipes for a perfect barbecue Weekend Times page 7

US convenes war council over Saddam

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

PRESIDENT Bush has called a council of war this weekend to discuss possible military action against Iraq. Yesterday, he curtailed campaigning in Ohio as anger mounted over Saddam Hussein's continued refusal to comply with UN demands for entry to the ministry agriculture ministry building in Baghdad, which is thought to contain details of Iraq's nuclear weapons programme.

Marlin Fitzwater, the White House Press Secretary, said Mr Bush would discuss enforcement action against Iraq with his national security advisers today. "This is probably the most serious situation that we face in Saddam's recurring defiance of UN resolutions." The question of issuing an ultimatum to Iraq is "still open and under discussion".

White House officials said yesterday that America, Britain and France were still discussing what kind of ultimatum to deliver to Iraq. "We're reviewing a number of options," one said. James Baker, the Secretary of State, will discuss the issue with Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, in Manila this weekend.

As the talks continued, the Pentagon confirmed that a four-ship amphibious battle force arrived in the Gulf yesterday to join a 13-ship battle group led by the aircraft carrier USS Independence, but the Pentagon said the movement of the force, led by the helicopter assault ship USS Tarawa, was not related to the increasing tensions between the allies and Iraq.

The Pentagon also said that the carrier USS Saratoga and three supporting warships entered the Adriatic yesterday, and shore leave has been cancelled. The Pentagon said the decision was made because of the situation in Yugoslavia, although it also made clear that all four could be used against Iraq. Altogether, the US has 41 ships in the Mediterranean, Red Sea and the Gulf.

The Pentagon would not comment yesterday on what kind of Iraqi targets would be attacked in the event of military action going ahead. In the past, options that have been floated have included: attacking Republican Guard units, bombing communications sites and suspected weapon-manufacturing plants and bombing roads used to ferry supplies into Iraq in defiance of UN trade embargo sanctions.

Pentagon sources said Richard Cheney, the Defence Secretary, and General Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were still advising the president to use "prudence and caution" in his approach to Saddam. "They want to make certain that whatever action is taken, it is taken intelligently and unemotionally."

The Pentagon is understood to have warned the White House that air strikes against Iraq would not be "risk-free" and that a newly resurgent Iraqi air force could pose a threat to the safety of American pilots.

Report and background, page 3

Bush deadline, page 11

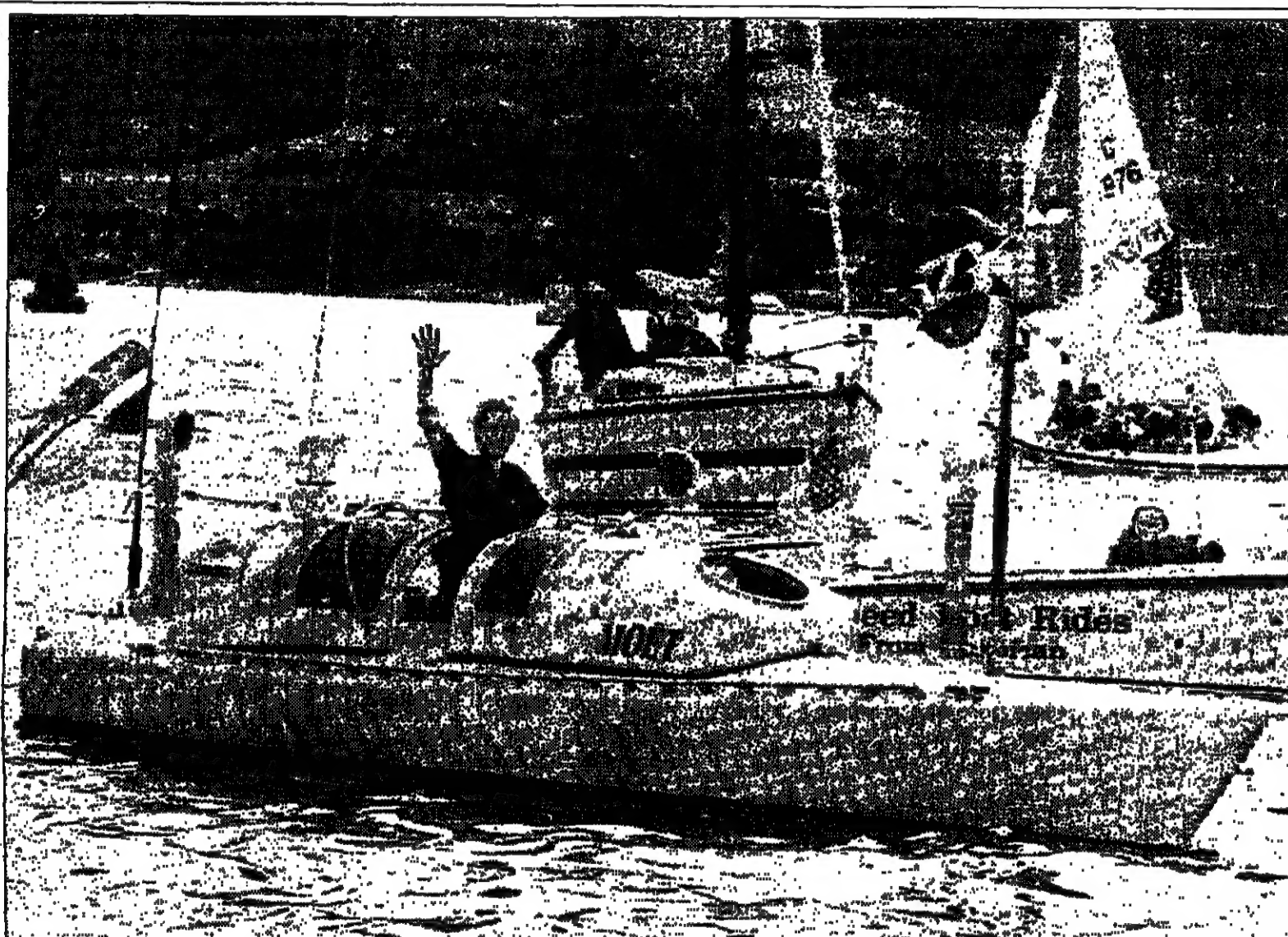
Sisters are jailed for murder

TWO sisters were jailed for life yesterday after an Old Bailey jury convicted them of murdering Alison Shaughnessy at her Battersea home last June.

The court had been told that Michelle Taylor, 21, had hatched a plot with her 19-year-old sister, Lisa, to kill Mrs Shaughnessy so that she could rekindle her affair with the victim's husband. The sisters lay in wait at the flat and stabbed her 54 times when she returned from work.

Later that day, Michelle Taylor returned with Mr Shaughnessy, a work colleague, and feigned horror at the sight of her victim's body. The jury had been told that Taylor had slept with Mr Shaughnessy the night before his wedding, driven him to the church the next morning and been introduced to members of the bride's family as "a close friend".

After passing sentence the trial judge told the sisters they had been found guilty of a terrible crime. Mrs Shaughnessy's life had all been before her and now it was no more, he said.



Sea legs: Dwight Collins arriving at Plymouth yesterday after taking 41 days to become the first person to pedal across the Atlantic. Mr Collins, 34, a former sailor in the US Navy, had pedalled for up to 24 hours a day in often treacherous gales to cover 1,950 nautical miles. Sipping cham-

pagne, he said: "It was hard, but it is tremendous feeling of accomplishment." Mr Collins set off from St John's, Newfoundland, on June 14 in his 23ft boat, Tango, which has a pedal-driven two-bladed propeller. He said he had worked on "autopilot" for the first 35 days, adding: "It

was only in the last five days, when I knew I could make it, that I started thinking about what I had done. I was exhausted, but there was no question of giving up." To while away the hours, Mr Collins, who is a Connecticut property agent, worked out riddles. "I also listened to books on

tapes, and, half way across, I picked up the BBC World Service." The weather gave him his biggest challenge, with 20ft waves and 40 knot gales. "In bad weather, I pedalled as hard as I could and coasted down the waves. That was so exhilarating," he said.

Thousands lose as holiday firm folds

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THE holiday plans of more than 50,000 people were in ruins last night after the collapse of the coach tour operator Land Travel with debts of more than £2 million.

At least 2,500 British tourists throughout Europe were told to pack their bags for immediate repatriation as police in Bath arrested the two main directors of the company, which specialises in cut-price holidays in Czechoslovakia, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Holland. The company is not a member of either the Association of British Travel Agents or the Bus and Coach Council, so no passengers booked to travel over the next few months will get their money back.

In Britain, thousands of people were left waiting on roadsides for coaches that failed to turn up. In Austria, guests were thrown out of

their hotel when expected payments did not arrive. Thousands of others were ordered to head back to the channel ports on the voluntary repatriation "specials" being organised by coach operators and ferry companies. British embassy officials have been told to be sympathetic, but not to hand out money until they had guaranteed that it would be repaid once the travellers had returned. P&O and Sealink offered to bring back coachloads of tourists free.

Land Travel, which also traded as Friendly Holidays, relied on water-thin profit margins to attract large numbers of customers to its cut-priced tours. They did not own their own coaches and, unlike tour operators who lease aircraft for package trips, did not need a licence to operate.

Using direct-sell techniques

their brochure became popular throughout Britain with pick up points in most major cities. Among their low cost offers were three nights at Christmas in Paris or Brussels for £49, ten days in Poland for £159 or week long tours to the Austrian lakes, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland and the Black Forest all for under £150.

Just before detectives moved in to arrest him, Val Tjolle, the company chairman, said: "Operating in a very difficult market, we tried an ambitious price discounting strategy. Although customers were delighted with the service and outstanding value for money, unfortunately the dramatic increase in demand over-extended our resources."

The collapse comes the week after the government announced plans to protect package tourists next year

and is likely to lead to pressure for those measures to be brought forward.

Under a new EC directive, which technically becomes law next January, any company which organises package tours, whether by air, land or sea, will have to deposit a bond with a recognised organisation such as the Association of British Travel Agents or the Bus and Coach Council. Details of the scheme have still to be worked out, however, and the new bond is unlikely to be effective before next July.

One ray of hope for disappointed holiday-makers comes from credit card companies that may offer refunds to people who spent more than £100. Barclaycard, last night advised customers to order claims packs from them by telephone. All Access and Visa cardholders should have similar cover.

Dying criminal says he killed Jimmy Hoffa

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK



Hoffa: rumours abound on his disappearance

A FORMER convict claimed on American television yesterday that he and three other men were paid to murder Jimmy Hoffa, head of the Teamsters trucking union, who disappeared in 1975 and whose body has never been recovered. He said that Hoffa had been drugged and thrown into Lake Michigan off Chicago.

The man, 70, who passed a lie-detector test before appearing on the programme *A Current Affair*, did not give his name but said he had come forward to "set the record straight" because he was dying of emphysema. Now the FBI says it wants to talk to the man to compare his story with information it already has on the kidnapping.

Hoffa, who had close links with organised crime, was last seen at a Detroit restaurant on July 30, 1975.

His disappearance spawned almost as many theories as the assassination of President Kennedy. Previous rumours have suggested that he is buried in the foundations of a Detroit building, or in the end zone of a football stadium. It is also suggested that he may be alive.

The latest claim is the only one to involve a credible witness, although little has been disclosed about him. The man, wearing a wide-brimmed hat, said that he was paid \$25,000 (£13,000) by "a Midwestern crime family" for his part in murdering Hoffa. He claimed that he and two other men seized Hoffa as he was leaving the restaurant, drugged him and drove him in the back of a van to Chicago.

Hoffa was allegedly loaded on to a yacht that sailed to the middle of the lake, where his unconscious, weighted body was dumped, the man said. "When the bubbles stopped coming up, we upped the anchor, started the motor

and went back. He never begged for his life. He was tough." He said that Hoffa had offered his captors \$500,000 for his release, which they refused.

One of the most respected practitioners of the polygraph, Nat Laurendi, subjected the man to a lie test and concluded: "His answers were truthful. I don't want to believe him, but I have to believe the polygraph results."

The man claimed that he knew his accomplices only by their first names. The leader, whom he referred to as Sal, may have been Salvatore (Sally Bugs) Briguglio, a well-known gangster long suspected of involvement in Hoffa's death. Briguglio was killed in a street shoot-out in New York in 1978.

The self-confessed assassin says he approached the Fox television station in May. A journalist from the programme said: "He could be a master hoaxer or the world's greatest lie detector expert. Or he could be telling the truth."

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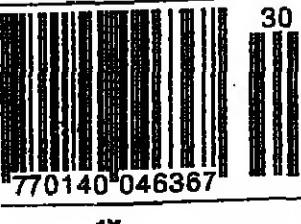
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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

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Juror weeps with Taylors' mother and friends as verdict and sentence are handed down

Sisters given life terms for killing Alison Shaughnessy

By Bill Frost

TWO young sisters were jailed for life yesterday for the murder of bank clerk Alison Shaughnessy. Michelle Taylor, 21, the lover of Mrs Shaughnessy's husband, was convicted with her sister Lisa, 19, of a frenzied attack on the victim, who was stabbed more than 50 times.

The women's friends, Mrs Shaughnessy's mother and a juror were all in tears when the verdicts were given. Mrs Shaughnessy's parents, Bob and Brenda Blackmore, said: "No sentence will ever atone for Alison's death. It doesn't matter how many years they serve. They will be branded murderers for the rest of their lives."

The sisters, from Forest Hill, southeast London, had both denied killing Mrs Shaughnessy at her flat in June last year. Mr Justice Blundell told them: "After a lengthy trial and an exhaustive investigation, you have been found guilty of this terrible crime of killing Alison Shaughnessy, whose life was all before her and whose life is no more."

The court had been told that Michelle Taylor had been having an affair with John Shaughnessy, 30, and that her "dream solution" was to remove her rival. Taylor wrote in a diary of her infatuation with Mr Shaughnessy and her hatred for his wife.

On June 3 last year, the sisters drove to the Shaughnessys' home in Battersea, south London, and attacked Mrs Shaughnessy with a knife as she arrived home from work. Before the body was discovered they concocted an alibi, persuading a friend that they had been at a private clinic where Michelle Taylor and Mr Shaughnessy worked. Michelle Taylor then returned to the scene of the murder with Mr Shaughnessy and feigned horror when she saw the corpse.

The court was told that she often gave Mr Shaughnessy a lift home after their Monday night routine of arranging flowers for the clinic. The pair often made love on Mondays when their affair was at its height. However, Mr Shaughnessy had ended the affair, telling Taylor that he wanted to spend more time

with his wife and had talked of starting a family.

The jury of seven men and five women was told that Taylor had slept with her lover the night before his marriage in Ireland less than a year earlier and had driven him to the church the following morning. She had been introduced to members of the bride's family as "one of the couple's closest friends".

Mrs Blackmore, when asked outside the court about feelings towards Mr Shaughnessy, said that she had mixed emotions. Mr Shaughnessy had gone to live with her and her husband after the murder. "John was Alison's only boyfriend — he was her life. As far as we knew, she was his life as well."

"We are still a family. We will be talking to John. We will all get together as a family. It was just something that happened."

She said she did not believe that her daughter ever knew about her husband's infidelity. "John and Alison were always together — they were inseparable." She added that the couple had been planning to move to Ireland.

Mr Shaughnessy, who embraced members of his wife's family outside the court, also welcomed the verdicts. "Justice has been done in the end," he said. "All I can say is that Alison can now rest in peace, now that we know these two people have been sent to prison."

Ann Taylor, mother of the killers, said that she sympathised with the Blackmores. "They must have gone through hell this past year," she said. "I know how I would have felt if it was my daughter." Derek Taylor added: "We do know what they are going through. It must be very painful for them."

Det Supt Chris Burke, the officer in charge of the murder investigation, said: "I am absolutely delighted by the guilty verdicts. These two wicked girls, aged 19 and 21, coldly, calculatingly, manipulated their way into a young wife's home and took her life by stabbing her 54 times."

Michael Holmes, the sisters' solicitor, said that there would be an appeal. "I have seen them in the cells and they are in tears and very upset. They cannot believe the verdict."



End of the road: John Shaughnessy, husband of the murder victim, leaves the Old Bailey yesterday. Michelle Taylor, centre top, and her sister Lisa, below, were both jailed for life for the murder of Alison Shaughnessy, shown right at her wedding reception. The jury heard that Mrs Shaughnessy was stabbed more than fifty times



Two sides of the baby-faced girl convicted of murder

Seven men and five women had to untangle the evidence and determine whether Michelle Taylor was a killer. Pat Clarke and Peter Anderson write

BESOTTED mistress driven by jealousy to kill her lover's wife — or guileless girl whose heart was broken by her first infatuation?

This was the decision a jury of seven women and five men had to make on 21-year-old Michelle Taylor at the end of the three-week murder trial.

The same judgment was to determine the fate of Michelle's sister and co-accused, Lisa Taylor, 19.

Could the baby-faced Michelle, who gave chocolate teddy bears to her lover John Shaughnessy and said in the witness box she wanted "just to be cuddled", have become the monster who rained more than 50 knife blows at her rival Alison Shaughnessy?

Outlining a motive, prosecuting counsel Mr John Nutting pointed to the "suppressed jealousy and hatred" for 21-year-old Alison that was revealed in Michelle's notebook diaries.

Michelle countered that

her affair with Mr Shaughnessy had ended by the time of Alison's death and she no longer cared about losing him.

The jury heard frequent reference to a diary entry in October 1990: "My dream solution would be for Alison to disappear as if she never existed and then maybe I could give everything I want to the man I love."

Michelle's explanation was that she had hated Alison, but only briefly. "As time went on I realised it was not Alison I hated, it was John," she told the jury.

She depicted herself, like Alison, as a victim of the deceit of Mr Shaughnessy to whom she had surrendered her virginity only to have her love misused.

She described how she first slept with Mr Shaughnessy in March 1989 and made the entry: "SWJ" — "slept with John" — in her diary. But she was hurt, she said, when she discovered he was "already engaged and later when she found he was not only two-timing his wife but her as well and had taken out a third woman."

Even Mr Nutting conceded Michelle had been "used and abused" by the "rather worthless" Mr Shaughnessy, who had repaid her love and loyalty with selfishness and unkindness.

Alison died between 5.40pm and 6pm on June 3 last year. She had clocked out of her bank at 5.02pm using her plastic card, caught a bus to Waterloo and a train to

Clapham Junction and was last seen alive leaving the station at 5.30pm to walk to her home at Vardens Road, Battersea.

Time checks later carried out by police put the journey at 35 minutes. Alison should have reached her front door at about 5.37pm.

According to the prosecution, Michelle and Lisa were already waiting. Unsuspecting, Alison let them in and went up the stairs ahead of them. At the top, Michelle allegedly unleashed a frenzied and sustained attack using a 5in knife to inflict the 54 wounds counted on Alison's body by pathologist Rufus Crompton.

So distressing were the police photographs of her body that Mr Nutting decided not to ask the jury to look at them.

Two of the knife thrusts were fatal: one penetrated the lung and another plunged behind the breastbone, severing an artery and cutting the windpipe.

Was it Michelle Taylor whom Alison tried in vain to fight off? She told the jury that she and Lisa were in Bromley, southeast London, on the afternoon of the killing and were at the Churchill Clinic with Jeanette Tapp, a friend, at the time Alison died.

Michelle stuck to her alibi even after Miss Tapp became a key prosecution witness, telling the jury she had lied to provide the sisters with a false cover story. Miss Tapp was accused by Mr Ferguson of withdrawing her statement only to protect herself from a charge of conspiracy to murder. She hotly denied the allegation.

Michelle called as a defence witness Philip Beeston, a friend who recalled meeting the sisters in Bromley. But he could not recall the date or time.

Cyclist Michael Unsworth-White was another key prosecution witness. The surgeon saw two young women running from Alison's home at

about the time of the murder. One had a ponytail, a hair-style said to be favoured by Lisa Taylor.

But he was unable positively to identify either of the women. And he deepened the mystery by describing a man emerging from the house shortly after the two women.

Michelle admitted lying to police when she told them Lisa had never been to Alison's flat. She said she had done so to distance her sister from Alison's home.

"Me and my sister did not kill Alison," she told the jury. Mr Nutting conceded in his closing speech that there were "loose ends" in his case: the disappearance of jewellery from Alison's home and the description of the "mystery man" leaving her address. The Crown cannot give you a certain identity as to who that man was," he admitted.

He said the evidence in criminal trials often left loose ends untied to "confuse and deflect". (Press Association)

Heart girl 'clinging to life' as Europe awaits a donor

By Kerry Gill

THE mother of a girl aged ten who has been "clinging to life" in intensive care for almost a month because there is no suitable donor heart in Europe last night spoke of her plight.

Wendy Walker was admitted to the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, early this month after contracting a flu-like virus while on a school outing to Loch Leven,

Fife, in May, but there was no firm connection between the virus and the rapid onset of cardiomyopathy, according to John Dark, head of the hospital's transplant unit.

Mr Dark said that it was essential that Wendy receive a new heart immediately. "Every morning, I come in and I am relieved to find that she is still alive," he said, adding that it was her misfortune to

become ill at a time of shortage of donor hearts.

Since being taken to hospital, Wendy has had three heart attacks and her name has been put at the top of the European list of people in need of a new heart, her mother, Evelyn Walker, said.

Mrs Walker and her husband, Peter, of Longforgan, near Dundee, have remained at their daughter's bedside.

Wendy returned from the school trip on May 19, feeling tired and unwell, and was later admitted to the local hospital. She was transferred to hospital in Kirkcaldy, Fife, and then to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. As her condition deteriorated, she was sent to the Freeman Hospital and put on a life support system to await a heart transplant.

"Wendy has had three heart attacks since," Mrs Walker said. "They have been trying to find a new heart for her, but none has been available. We stay by her bedside all the time just coming out for a cup of tea. She is unable to talk properly because of the tubes in her mouth."

Mrs Walker said that it had been thought that the virus had affected her daughter's heart, possibly due to algae in Loch Leven. Last month, it was reported that the loch had been polluted by fertilisers and sewage.

Mr Dark, however, said that it was unlikely that it had anything to do with algae which, usually, would affect the kidney or liver. "We are not certain that her condition has been caused by a virus. We only know that she had a flu-like illness at the time this started," he said.

Julia Warren, of the UK Transplant Support Service Authority, said: "If we don't have the donors, we don't have the organs."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Satellite channels scrapped

Plans to launch new community and special interest television channels on the domestic Maropolo satellite despatched by the merged BSkyB were scrapped by the Independent Television Commission yesterday (Melinda Wittstock writes).

The commission decided not to advertise licences for the five frequencies after it became clear no prospective bidder could meet strict rules in the 1990 Broadcasting Act requiring licences to run for 15 years. The commission had planned channels for the Asian community and coverage of Parliament.

Sale in doubt

Sotheby's sale of the treasures of Princess Gloria von Thurn und Taxis, better known to Germans as the "punk princess", may not proceed. Relatives of her late husband, Prince Johannes, have objected to the sale of the family silver to pay death duties.

Men released

Three men detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act were released yesterday. They are believed to have been questioned in connection with bombings in London over the past two years but not about an explosion in the City in April.

Airport protest

Baggage handlers at Manchester airport are protesting over not being warned of a shipment of HIV-infected blood. Union officials want to ban further consignments of the blood, which arrived on a BA flight from Brussels on its way to Leeds for research.



Time to talk: Jack Straw, MP, listening to the views of his constituents in Blackburn yesterday

Policeman injured as violence flares again

By Ronald Faulk

MORE than 100 people have been arrested during the series of disturbances in three northern towns. In Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, a policeman was hurt in the early hours of yesterday when violence again flared on the Brackenhill Estate.

Riot police fought with crowds of youths and there were signs that the trouble had been organised, with youths monitoring police radio and communicating with each other via CB radio. Petrol bombs were thrown in attacks on police, who believe that some troublemakers came from outside the town.

There were reports that copies of a Socialist Worker Party leaflet had been distributed on the Brackenhill estate, urging people, especially blacks, to fight back against Tory policies. West Yorkshire police said last night there was no suggestion that a specific outside group had been involved in the violence.

In Blackburn, Lancashire, the presence of riot police and

wet weather in the early hours of yesterday diffused the tension between groups of Indians and Pakistanis that had led to earlier violence and petrol bombing. Police confiscated 51 petrol bombs and a variety of weapons from the crowd, some of whom were from outside the county.

The fifth successive night of rioting on the Stoops Housing Estate in Burnley was less violent but youths set fire to a barricade and attacked engineers who arrived under police protection to repair a sub-station. Vandals had damaged the sub-station, plunging the streets into darkness.

Community leaders are still trying to discover the cause for the sudden outbreak of rioting. Some believe that the cause was growing friction within the Asian community, with young Asians rejecting the values of their parents or Pakistani girls preferring Indian men because, as one shopkeeper put it, "they are snappier dressers".

'Serial confessor' cleared on appeal

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

A MAN convicted solely on the basis of his confessions to the brutal killing of two elderly women, despite his known false admissions to a dozen others that he could not have committed, was cleared yesterday.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, also signalled a significant change in the law relating to confession evidence as part of efforts to minimise the potential for miscarriages of justice.

David McKenzie, 38, of Pimlico, south-west London, was convicted at the Old Bailey and sentenced on March 30 1990 for the manslaughter through diminished responsibility of Mrs Barbara Pinder, 76, of Battersea, in 1984, and Mrs Henrietta Osbourne, 86, of Chelsea, the following year.

The three Court of Appeal judges, headed by the Lord Chief Justice, quashed his convictions as "unsafe and unsatisfactory". They ruled that the confessions of McKenzie, who was referred to by lawyers as "a serial confessor, not a serial killer", were totally unreliable.

The confessions, made by a man with a significant mental handicap, were not supported by other evidence and were unconvincing, they ruled. "Not only was there no corroboration of the confessions: there was a total and surprising absence of any evidence whatever pointing towards him from any other source," Lord Taylor said.

Lord Taylor, sitting with Mr Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Roch, then pointed to a significant change in the law relating to confession evidence and ruled that McKenzie's trial should have been stopped. He said: "Cases depending solely or mainly on confessions, like cases depending upon identification

evidence, have given rise to miscarriages of justice. "We are therefore of the opinion that, when three conditions [not corroborated, unconvincing and mental handicap] apply at any stage of the case, the trial judge should, in the interests of justice, take the initiative and withdraw the case from the jury."

McKenzie had been sent to Rampton top-security mental hospital and remains there despite yesterday's decision. The judges rejected his further appeal against conviction of two arson offences, for which a hospital order was also made. He had admitted two offences of unlawful sex, which resulted in a similar order. His solicitor, Paul Bacon, said after the hearing he was hopeful that McKenzie would be discharged from Rampton soon. He was due to appear before a mental health review tribunal later this year. A hostel had already been found for him.

Lord Taylor said in his judgment that McKenzie had given great detail of the brutal killings of the two women at their homes. Mrs Osbourne had been battered, stabbed and sexually assaulted and her body set on fire. Mrs Pinder was stabbed 45 times and strangled. But his knowledge could have been gleaned from the massive publicity over the killings, and he had omitted to mention significant details.

Woman denies plot to kill husband

By Peter Victor

A BUSINESSWOMAN offered an undercover policeman posing as a professional killer £90,000 to murder her husband after he committed adultery, a jury at Leeds crown court was told yesterday.

It was alleged that Susan Gill, 39, suggested that the man inject her husband with heroin or knock him down with a car and then laughed at the notion of him being shot between the eyes.

Mrs Gill, of Shipley, West Yorkshire, returned from a business trip to Hong Kong to find that her husband, Michael, had slept with another woman in their home, the court was told. Convinced that her stormy marriage was finished, she contacted Brian Oram, a family friend, to arrange her husband's death.

Mr Oram told police and introduced her to Malcolm Black, supposedly a professional assassin but in fact an undercover policeman. David Grippon, counsel for the prosecution, said

Mrs Gill, a sales worker for a jeans company, met Mr Black several times. She asked him to make her husband's death look like an accident so that she could pay him with £90,000 insurance money payable on Mr Gill's death.

Mr Black taped their conversations in a hotel car park off the M606 motorway near Bradford. It was alleged that Mrs Gill told him: "I want him dead. He is a bully and he has bled me dry."

Mr Black told the court that he said he would want to shoot his victim. "She said, 'Make it between the eyes. I would hate to see him suffer,' and then she laughed." He alleged that Mrs Gill, who was formerly married to a policeman, then said: "Pump him full of heroin or make it look like a hit and run accident."

Mrs Gill denied soliciting Mr Black to murder her husband, 29, between June 28 and July 11 last year. The case continues next week.

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Psychiatrists' conference

Sickness of jealousy growing fast

FROM ALISON ROBERTS IN DUBLIN

MORBID jealousy is becoming an increasingly common psychiatric disorder and is far more prevalent than is widely recognised, members of the Royal College of Psychiatrists were told at their annual conference in Dublin yesterday.

Padmal de Silva, a psychiatrist at the Maudsley hospital in London, said sexual jealousy in couples could reach obsessive proportions with a patient resorting to phone tapping, bugging, mooring offices or employing a private detective. In some cases marital jealousy manifested itself as a nightly interrogation into the partner's day and social contacts or as a set of rules which might forbid a spouse to leave the house unaccompanied or set a curfew.

A male partner might forbid his wife to work in an all-

male environment, and women went to great lengths to prevent their partners looking at other women, sometimes even cutting out newspaper pictures of women.

Dr de Silva said that in the most severe cases the jealousy turned to an Othello-like violence where the patient attacked his partner or the imagined third party supposed to be having an affair. Dinesh Bhugra of the Institute of Psychiatry said that the increased number of patients being referred to therapists was partly due to a greater clinical awareness of the mental disturbance caused by extreme jealousy. An evolving society in which women had greater freedom was another reason.

Cultural factors were also important. "If you have been brought up in a culture where there is an exclusive and rigidly monogamous relationship between husband and wife then jealousy is likely if you move into another culture where there is a greater social mixing between the sexes. If people from different cultures marry then there is an even greater likelihood."

The recession had contributed to the increased number of sufferers, Dr Bhugra said. People who feared the loss of a breadwinner in a difficult time might become irrational about somebody stealing their partner.

The illness, classified as delusional disorder: jealous type, is defined as being present in patients who suffer obsessive compulsive and intrusive thoughts about a partner's supposed infidelity. It can occur when someone is preoccupied with their spouse's past relationships, which may have taken place before marriage.

Low self-esteem, insecurity, and other anxieties often accompany the illness. Sometimes it is related to alcoholism or schizophrenia.

Dr Michael Crowe, who with Dr Jane Ridley counsels couples at Maudsley hospital, said that patients had lost jobs and families because of jealousy's crippling effects.

"We see the tip of the iceberg; studies have shown that up to 40 per cent of the population have suffered jealousy in their relationships at some time," he said. There was an increasing recognition among psychiatrists that morbid jealousy can be effectively treated.

Couples are given timetables allowing them to talk about their jealousy freely, but only between, say, 8pm and 8.30pm. Dr Crowe said the incidence of morbid jealousy was evenly distributed between the sexes but men tended to create imaginary affairs while women misinterpreted innocent situations.

Snakes spit their way into medical books

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE serpent has a place in the healing arts because of its association with Aesculapius, the Greek god of medicine. It was a symbol of health, continuity and eternity. Now Italian researchers have suggested it was valued for a more prosaic reason: its spittle.

Luciana Angeletti and her colleagues in the philology and history department at the University of Cassino 70 miles from Rome have shown that snake spittle contains epidermal growth factor, a product that encourages the regrowth of skin. The ancient rituals, they suggest, were designed to take advantage of this.

According to myth, patients were cured after entering a sacred cellar where they were visited, while asleep, by a god in serpentine form or a priest bearing a sacred serpent. Tablets found during the excavation of shrines to Aesculapius show the mouths of non-poisonous snakes being applied to wounds.

The text of one inscription found at Epidaurus in the nineteenth century attributes a critical therapeutic role to a serpent. It describes a man "suffering dreadfully from a malignant sore in his toe" being taken outside the temple and left to sleep on a seat. A serpent then emerged from a sacred cellar and "healed the toe with its tongue".

Typical Monday...
cast out of the city
then a snake spits on me



Dr Angeletti's team caught three specimens of *E. quatuorlineatus* (the four-lined snake), a large, common, non-poisonous variety, well known to ancient writers and a likely candidate for the role of sacred serpent. They extracted samples of saliva and found it contained epidermal growth factor.

The snakes' spittle had the same immunological reactivity as concentrations of epidermal growth factor that are known to be effective in stimulating the growth of human skin.

Growth factor has been shown to assist healing of a variety of lesions in humans, including tendon injuries, ulcers, burns and wounds. Writing in *The Lancet*, the researchers say they cannot exclude the effect of psychological factors, drugs and sleep, but what seems to have given Greek physicians the edge was the spittle.



Enduring legacy: George IV's state visit in 1822. The extravaganza still has repercussions today

Scottish historian defends Sir Walter and the tartan

Sir Walter Scott has been falsely blamed for devaluing Scotland's image, writes Kerry Gill

A SCOTTISH historian and writer yesterday defended the role of Sir Walter Scott in promoting the state visit to Scotland of George IV, an event described as a 14-day extravaganza which has been blamed for creating the country's image as a tartan, quasi-Celtic never-never land.

As the 170th anniversary of the famous visit approaches, Sir Walter has come in for severe criticism for stage-managing a flamboyant occasion that still has repercussions. The plump figure of King George was clad in flesh-coloured tights, plaid and kilt, and at a reception at Holyrood Palace he was invited to kiss 400 women in the space of an hour and a quarter. So spectacular were the displays that painters such as Turner and Wilkie, who recorded the visit, changed details to make the event look less ridiculous.

Although the visit was considered a great success, many sections of Scottish society were outraged by the absurdity, particularly as the event closely followed the Highland clearances

and the transportation and execution of radicals accused of sedition. Aside from his writing, Scott has since been ridiculed for introducing "tartanalia" and encouraging a caricature of Scotland now found on postcards and shortbread tins.

But Rennie McCowan, the historian, has reassessed Sir Walter's part in the visit and his subsequent direction that men should don Highland dress — kilts, plaids, brooches and the *sgian dhu*, the black knife worn in the right stocking — at all official events apart from military and naval occasions.

Mr McCowan said: "It is commonly said that tartan is a romantic invention, that Sir Walter was responsible for making it the national dress and was so carried away that he couldn't see the social evils

of the time. We are seeing the tartan thing more clearly now and there is no question that tartan has a long and authentic pedigree."

Mr McCowan, writing in *The Scots Magazine*, has offered a lengthy defence of Sir Walter in which he says that the writer, despite a flawed social conscience, made Scotland important again.

Yesterday he said: "He saw the monarchy as a unifying force and did make some criticisms of the clearances, albeit not all that strong. Tartan as a weaving form goes back many centuries. Some would claim that the clan tartans are the same today as they were in 1745, others say that it is a Victorian invention, but the truth lies somewhere in between."

"Misguidedly romantic Sir Walter might have been, he might have gone to extremes, but time is proving him at least partly right. Whatever his excesses and misunderstandings, he kept Scottishness alive, even imperfectly, at a time when it was in decline and might have died entirely," said Mr McCowan.

£804,860 payout for dismissal

BY KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE former assistant managing director of Nissan UK yesterday won £804,860 damages in the High Court for wrongful dismissal. The company must also pay costs estimated at £300,000.

Stanislav Cholaj of Brighton, East Sussex, was hired by Oday Bonar, Nissan UK's chairman, at a £125,000 salary to help to run Britain's most successful independent chain of car dealerships. Mr Cholaj walked out in 1989, saying that he had been humiliated by Mr Bonar. Mr Cholaj said he was entitled to a ten-year year notice period and bonuses and company cars for himself and his wife.

Nissan UK said he took the job knowing Mr Bonar's management style. However, Judge Laurie said yesterday that Mr Bonar's style was irrelevant to the construction of Mr Cholaj's contract and he was justified in walking out and entitled to damages. Mr Bonar had appointed others to do his work and countermanded his decisions. He had also taken credit for successful decisions implemented by Mr Cholaj.

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Parents lose battle to learn how son died in Falklands

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE parents of a young soldier killed in a boat accident in the Falkland Islands have no right to see a board of enquiry report to discover how their son died, the High Court ruled yesterday. Mr Justice Rose said there was no legal duty on the defence secretary to disclose the report.

He dismissed, "with great regret", an application by Paul and Ingeborg Sancto, of Gillingham, Kent, challenging the defence secretary's refusal in May 1990 to let them see a copy of the report on the death of their son, Kirk, 19, a sapper who died in June 1985 when two boats collided in Stanley Harbour.

The judge ruled: "The parents have no right to know how their son died in so far as this can be ascertained from the report. That last sentence may well cause an astonished gasp from many members of the public and perhaps some ministers. But in my judgment it accurately reflects the state of the law."

"It follows that, with no enthusiasm at all, I am driven to the conclusion that, even in the unique and in some respects lamentable circumstances of this case, I cannot provide Mr and Mrs Sancto

with the relief which, I have little doubt, most members of the public would feel is their due. It is not for me but for Parliament, where this judgment began, to remedy the situation."

Later Mr Sancto, an engineer who has spent thousands of pounds fighting the case, said that he was astounded and would consider an appeal. "The obvious conclusion is that there is something being covered up," he said. "We have had seven years of worry and heartache and are no nearer the truth."

He called for a freedom of information act "because keeping information of this type secret is nonsense". The judge said there were special circumstances suggesting that the report should have been disclosed. The decision of Tom King, then defence secretary, not to disclose it in May 1990 was outrageous, he said. He began his judgment by noting the prime minister's statement to the Commons in May pledging to sweep away "cobwebs of secrecy which needlessly veil too much of government business".

The judge said there had been "conspicuous failures"



by officials and that Mr and Mrs Sancto had been given a "totally misleading" account of the circumstances surrounding the accident.

The board of enquiry into Mr Sancto's death sat in 1985 on a date unknown to Mr and Mrs Sancto. The report and post-mortem report were sent to the coroner at Oxford, where the inquest was to be held. In September 1986 there was a verdict of accidental death. The contents of the board's report were never disclosed.

Mr and Mrs Sancto were given details of the army's report of what was said to have happened, which differed from evidence given to the inquest. The report said that their son and a Fusilier Cathall had volunteered to provide a ferry taxi service and that the collision occurred because their boat was being manoeuvred dangerously.

The report concluded that contributory causes "included impairment of the crew's judgment by drink and the excessive speed" of the boat.

The pathologist's report to the inquest disclosed no alcohol in the dead soldier's body. The judge said: "The evidence at the inquest showed no great speed, lack of control or recklessness at the relevant time."

Mr Sancto wrote to the ministry again after the inquest. The reply acknowledged that the earlier account "may unintentionally have been a little misleading", but it did not say whether it was still being maintained that his son's judgment had been impaired by drink.

The judge said the letter concluded with "the astonishing claim" that the army and the department had done all they could to meet "your entirely natural desire for information about the tragic circumstances of your son's death".

He said that sight of the enquiry report might or might not resolve matters and "the court's sympathy is entirely with Mr and Mrs Sancto in their wish to see it". However, the law could not bring that about.



Upholding her honour: Jani Allan outside the High Court with her lawyer, Peter Carter-Ruck. She claims the Channel 4 film *The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife* portrayed her as "a lady of easy virtue"

QC in Channel 4 libel case tells of notebook puzzle

BY A STAFF REPORTER

MYSTERY surrounds the production in the Jani Allan libel case of her explicit personal notebook detailing sexual encounters that she insists were mere "fantasy".

The notebook, which appears to recount the South African journalist's affairs with a married Italian pilot and an Italian gun-smuggler called Mauro, took Miss Allan's lawyers by surprise when George Carman QC, for the defence, produced it at the start of his cross-examination.

Miss Allan, 41, of Wolsey Court, Hampton Court, Surrey, is suing Channel 4 over the film *The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife*, which she says portrayed her as a "lady of easy virtue" who slept with the South African, neo-Nazi leader Eugene Terre-Blanche.

Channel 4 says it never suggested an affair and argues that such an allegation, although never made, would be justified because Miss Allan did have an affair with Mr Terre-Blanche, a married man with a young daughter.

Miss Allan told Mr Justice Potts and the High Court jury yesterday that the notebook, which covers the years 1984-5, was "absolutely categorically not" written for public consumption.

She has said it was born out of her traumatic state at the time. She did not give permission to anyone to give it to Channel 4 and had never been told how they got hold of it. She knew the notebook had been stolen from her but not by whom.

Mr Carman said the court should know the notebook arrived in a parcel, via a court usher, early on Tuesday afternoon, the second day of the hearing. It carried his name, was addressed to the courtroom, and was delivered by "one of those bikes which go around London". He said: "We don't know who [it was sent] by."

Mr Carman said the notebook proved that Miss Allan was a "liar and a hypocrite" when she said that she was a

woman whose personal morality would not countenance an affair with a married man.

Charles Gray QC, for Miss Allan, pointed out that the notebook contained nothing of relevance to Mr Terre-Blanche or the question of whether Miss Allan had a relationship with him. The Terre-Blanche allegations covered the period 1988-9, four years after the notebook was written.

Under cross-examination by Mr Carman, Miss Allan denied telling her former flatmate Linda Shaw that Mr Terre-Blanche was "a great lay but a little heavy". She also denied that she would sit at Mr Terre-Blanche's feet when he came round to her flat and "ply" him with Chivas Regal whisky — his favourite drink.

She denied that she would make a meal for Mr Terre-Blanche of boerewors (sausage) and that they would laugh together over graffiti that had appeared in Johannesburg proclaiming "Jani Allan loves boerewors" — a crude reference to the male sexual organ.

"That graffiti was written in Johannesburg and caused me tremendous pain and upset," she told Mr Carman. "You would have it that I was amused by all this."

"I would have you understand that an ulcer doesn't happen overnight. I was very unhappy about all the publicity, to the extent that my ulcer was becoming a problem."

She agreed that she was taking "uppers and downers" at the time, but said they had been prescribed by her doctor.

In re-examination, Mr Gray asked Miss Allan: "What is the truth of this charge that you committed adultery and had a sexual relationship, had sexual intercourse with Terre-Blanche in your bedroom with other men present?"

Miss Allan: "For the hundredth time, I did not have an affair with Terre-Blanche."

The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

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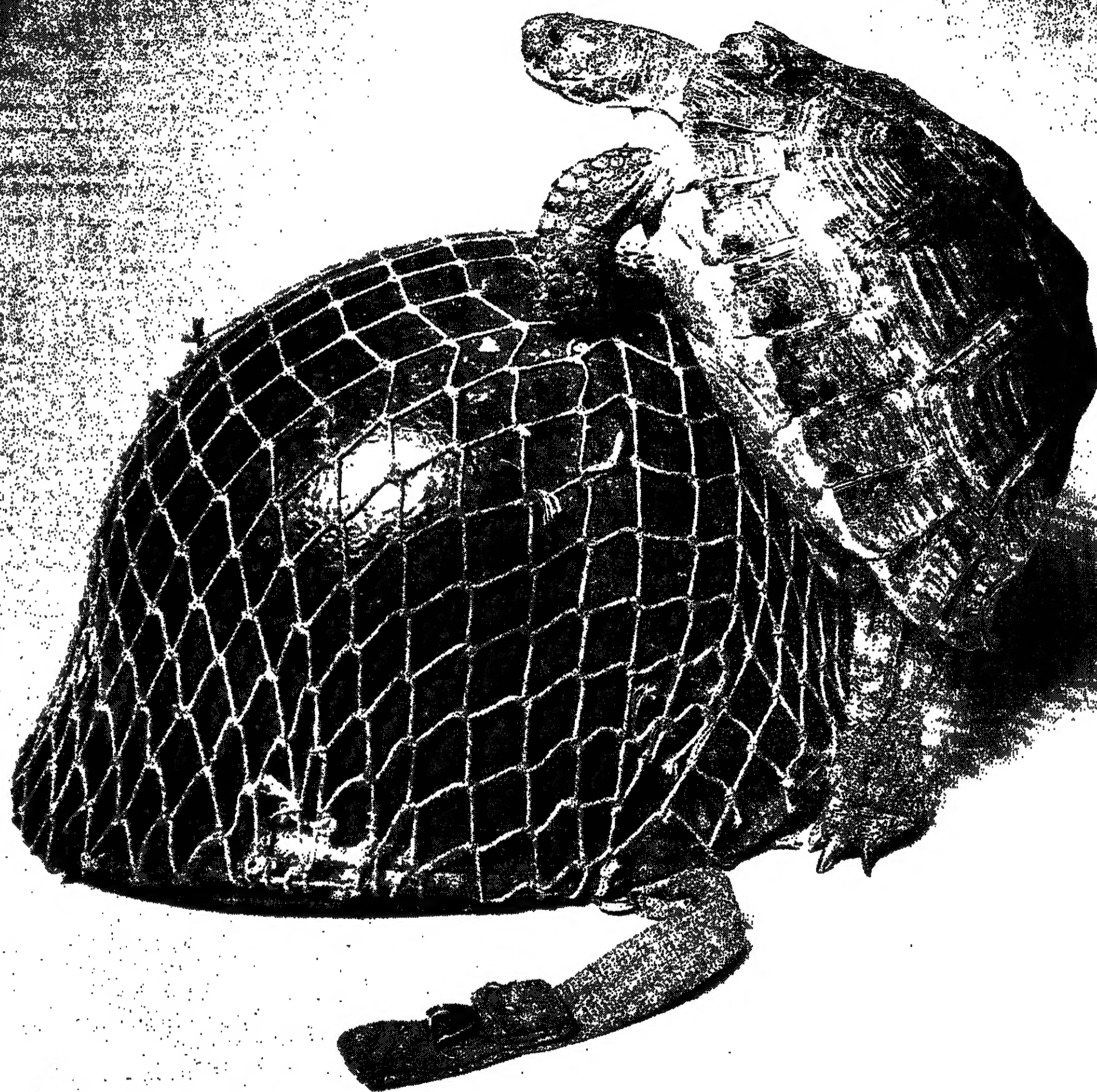
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Leadership rival Gould shadows Mellor; Beckett becomes shadow Commons leader

Smith chooses close allies for key posts

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN Smith promoted David Blunkett, the only blind MP, to the key post of shadow health secretary and gave the five women in his top team important roles as he carried out a speedy reconstruction of the shadow cabinet yesterday.

The new Labour leader last night hailed his "new shadow cabinet" as one full of talent and ability and more than a match for the government.

Mr Blunkett, the former leader of Sheffield council, who was elected to the upper ranks for the first time on Thursday, takes over from Robin Cook in a job in which he will be pitted against Virginia Bottomley. He said last night that Labour should be prepared to challenge the government on health both inside and outside the party.

In a reshuffle that sees all his closest supporters in the most sensitive posts on the front bench, Mr Smith has given his deputy Margaret Beckett the joint responsibilities of shadow Commons leader and co-ordinator of the party's campaigns.

Marjorie Mowlem, another newcomer, gets the

dual jobs of shadowing William Waldegrave's citizen's charter department and speaking on women's rights. Ann Taylor is promoted to the high-profile role of shadow education secretary. Harriet Harman becomes shadow chief secretary to the Treasury. Mrs Beckett's old job, and Ann Clwyd becomes shadow Welsh secretary.

The most senior jobs went as expected: Gordon Brown takes Mr Smith's old job as shadow Chancellor; Tony Blair steps into Roy Hattersley's shoes as shadow home secretary. Robin Cook is pitted against Michael Heseltine as shadow trade and industry secretary, and Jack Cunningham takes over from Gerald Kaufman as shadow foreign secretary.

Perhaps the biggest surprise is the appointment of Tom Clarke, newly elected on Thursday, to the position of shadow Scottish secretary, where he replaces Donald Dewar and takes on the thorny issue of Scottish independence. Mr Dewar, a close ally of the Labour leader, would have been prepared to carry on but accepted Mr Smith's view that after nine

years it was time for a change. He moves to the social security brief, a position regarded as important by Mr Smith because of the debate over universal benefits and his plans for a commission on social justice.

Bryan Gould, defeated by Mr Smith in the leadership contest, was given the job of shadowing David Mellor at the national heritage department. Mr Gould had been keen on getting the citizen's charter job but close sources said last night that he was happy with the post. He issued a statement welcoming the appointment and declaring that he would speak up for quality, choice and the best traditions of public broadcasting and push for a more responsible press and freedom of information.

Mr Smith said his first shadow cabinet would "relentlessly expose" government policies. "In particular, proper recognition of the quality of the five women elected to the shadow cabinet



High profile: opposition leader John Smith has given Ann Taylor the job of shadow education secretary

is reflected in their jobs."

Frank Dobson, who finished fourth in the elections, gets the job of shadow employment secretary. Jack Straw moves from education to shadow Michael Howard on local government. Chris Smith, another of the five new

faces in the shadow team, takes on environmental protection. Michael Meacher, formerly at social security, is overseas development spokesman.

John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, who contested the deputy leadership

contest, was granted his wish to stay in the job and lead the opposition attack against British Rail privatisation.

The shadow defence secretary job, previously done outside the shadow cabinet by Martin O'Neill, moves inside and is taken by David Clark,

formerly the agriculture spokesman. The Northern Ireland portfolio will continue to be held outside the shadow cabinet by Kevin McNamara.

Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Hospital blunder cost £20m

A HEALTH authority spent £43 million on a computer system that did not work and about half the money was wasted, it was disclosed yesterday.

Wessex Regional Health authority, covering hospitals in Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire and Avon, is taking legal advice in an effort to recover the money from contractors. Ken Jarrold, the authority's manager, said yesterday: "There are no excuses. This is a very tragic story of mismanagement and a waste of millions of pounds of public money."

The ambitious plan in 1982 for a new system linking the hospitals put estimated costs at £20 million. When finally scrapped in 1990, the project had cost £43 million, which could finance 1,400 liver transplants or 16,000 hip operations.

The authority is putting some of the work to good use, but Mr Jarrold said at least £20 million of public money had been wasted. The district auditor's report on the matter will be passed to the police to see if there is any criminal case to answer.

THE FULL LIST OF THE NEW SHADOW CABINET

	Age	Position
John Smith	53	Leader
Margaret Beckett	49	Leader of the House with responsibility for campaign co-ordination
Gordon Brown	41	Treasury and economic affairs
Tony Blair	39	Home affairs
Robin Cook	46	Trade and industry
Frank Dobson	52	Employment
John Prescott	54	Transport
Bryan Gould	53	National heritage
Harriet Harman	41	Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Marjorie Mowlem	42	Citizen's Charter and women
Chris Smith	41	Environmental protection
Ann Clwyd	55	Wales
Ann Taylor	45	Education
Jack Cunningham	52	Foreign and Commonwealth affairs
Michael Meacher	52	Development and co-operation
Donald Dewar	54	Social security
David Blunkett	45	Health
Jack Straw	45	Environment (local government)
Tom Clarke	51	Scotland
David Clark	52	Defence, disarmament and arms control

The following are non-elected members of the shadow cabinet:
Ron Davies 45 Food, agriculture and rural affairs
Kevin McNamara 57 Northern Ireland
Derek Foster 55 Chief whip
Doug Hoyle 52 Chairman parliamentary Labour party

*Automatically members of the shadow cabinet.

Eurocrat career is tempting Kinnock

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

EXCHANGING years of staring at John Smith's back from the Commons back benches for a new career in the European Commission with a six-figure salary is looking increasingly tempting to Neil Kinnock.

After Mr Kinnock's discussions this week with John Major and the commission president, Jacques Delors, friends of the former Labour leader believe that an announcement about a move to Brussels may be made within a few weeks.

Friends disclosed yesterday that Mr Kinnock is being swayed in favour of becoming one of Britain's two EC commissioners at the end of the year, not by the lifestyle, but by the chance to channel all his energy into becoming a key influence on the European Community's future.

They also agree that, if Mr Kinnock does succeed Bruce Millan, a former Labour minister, he would throw himself wholeheartedly into EC politics and would not, like some commissioners, keep half an

eye on a return to national politics.

In Brussels, Mr Kinnock would receive £108,000 a year tax-free. Although the appointment would be initially for a four-year term, Mr Kinnock would be likely to serve two terms at least.

There would be drawbacks for Mr Kinnock. He is only 50 and would be sorry to leave the Commons. He also hopes to stay on Labour's national executive committee.

He is one of those MPs who never resents constituency duties. Leaving Islay, and causing a by-election in the south Wales seat, would be a wrench for both Neil and Glenys Kinnock.

There would be benefits for John Smith in Mr Kinnock going to the EC. The media will scan Mr Kinnock's utterances for any whiff of criticism of his successor. Mr Kinnock shows no sign of emulating Sir Edward Heath or Baroness Thatcher, but there might be relief in the Smith camp at his departure.

Processing of tax data may go private

By Arthur Leathley

THE Inland Revenue is to come under scrutiny by the government as part of its drive to improve efficiency and value for money. The Revenue's computer division, containing more than 35 million tax files, may be contracted out to private firms under the restructuring of the public sector supervised by William Waldegrave, the public service minister.

Five leading computer companies are assessing the possibility of one or more firms taking on the data processing work on taxpayers' files, which costs between £200 million and £250 million a year. The announcement, made in internal letters to staff, has brought trade union demands that "this dangerous move" be reversed.

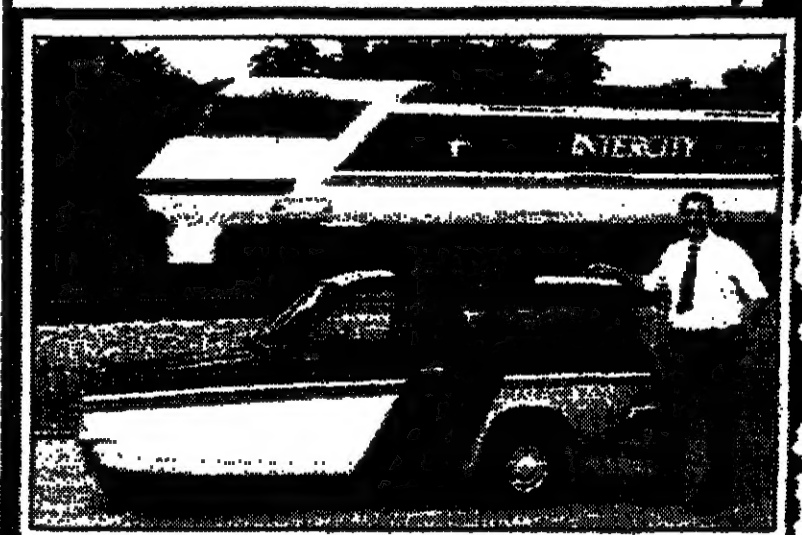
If approved, the proposals could take the jobs of up to 2,800 staff at 16 computer centres out of the public sec-

tor, although it would take several years to contract out all the work.

Clive Brooke, general secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, said that taking the work away from civil servants would endanger taxpayers' privacy. "Personal privacy is being put at risk by the government's obsession with market testing. They claim that tax confidentiality will be just as high as with a bank. Let us hope it does not turn out to be another BCCI," he said.

The Inland Revenue said that it would remain a criminal offence to divulge confidential information and that it would remain responsible for ensuring that confidentiality was preserved. "No decisions have been taken at this stage and no decisions will be taken unless it can be demonstrated that a high-quality service and the best value for money is provided."

Ken turns his car into an InterCity



Says... Ken with his pride and joy as a real InterCity steam train

TRAIN buff Ken White is so devoted to his hobby he drives around in a Fiatist Robin painted to look like an InterCity Express.

And if it ever breaks down he gets behind the wheel of his second car - another Del Boy-style three-wheeler decked out like a freight engine.

Ken, 46, a train spotter and model engine collector for 17 years, said yesterday: "I decided if I had to drive a Robin it might as well look like a train. It's created more interest than I thought and people often stop me on the road and ask if they can take a picture."

"People really stare and it's nearly caused a few accidents. Ken, from Grantham, Lincs, painted his 'freight train' Robin after trading motorbike. He."

Exclusive
By Lisa Reynolds

British Rail staff think I'm giving bad names, but I just a steam train."

It's nothing new. We've been making cars look stupid for years.

INTERCITY

Woman loses 'right to die' court appeal

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS can continue to give blood to a seriously ill woman who is said to have objected to transfusions to please her mother, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

The court said the doctors can legally treat the woman even though she had signed a refusal to accept blood transfusions after being influenced by her mother, a Jehovah's Witness.

Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, said: "Treatment in accordance with whatever doctors think is in the best interests of the patient is authorised."

The court will give its reasons for the decision next week in a judgment that could set guidelines for the approach to be adopted by the medical profession when faced with objections by patients to treatment.

After the hearing one lawyer in the case said it raised "very important questions about the attitudes of doctors

had been forced by her mother to follow the religion but rebelled and was not a practising Jehovah's Witness.

Last week in the High Court, Mr Justice Ward said the woman, from Stoke-on-Trent, could receive life-saving treatment including blood and plasma transfusions. The decision, won by the woman's father and two West Midlands health authorities responsible for her treatment, was challenged in the appeal court by David Venables, the Official Solicitor, acting on behalf of the unconscious woman.

James Munby QC, for the Official Solicitor, said the right of self-determination extended even to refusal of treatment necessary to preserve life. That concept "entitles the patient to act in a way which others, even society at large, might think to be misguided, irrational, absurd or even worse".

The appeal against Mr Justice Ward's decision was opposed by T's father, who is divorced from her mother and is not a Jehovah's Witness. It was alleged that, while being visited by her mother in hospital after the car accident, T told a nurse "out of the blue" that she did not want blood transfusions.

Mr Venables said that he would not decide until hearing the court's full reasons whether to seek to appeal to the House of Lords. "The judges have concluded that Mr Justice Ward, in overriding what seemed to be the woman's wishes, in the particular circumstances of this case, was correct," he said.

"But, equally, if you look at his judgment it does not knock down the principle that people have the right to refuse treatment. It was only because of the peculiar circumstances of this case that the judge made the decision he did."

The court had been told that the woman, aged 20 and referred to as T, was in a critical but stable condition after a car crash that resulted in her baby being stillborn. T

Clifford Longley, page 14

Curios put 'rainforests of the sea at risk'

Aquariums and the gift trade may be threatening the survival of coral reefs, Michael McCarthy writes

THE seizure of what is believed to be the biggest haul of illegally exported coral in the world has prompted fears that the British aquarium and marine curios trades may be helping the destruction of coral reefs.

More than 80 tonnes of coral from the Philippines, thought to be worth more than £500,000, was seized by customs officers in two raids last week at docks in Tilbury and Felixstowe. The consignments purported to be coral from stocks collected before 1986, on which an amnesty had been granted, but some were found to be fresh.

Both consignments were destined for Tricort, an aquarium wholesale company in Boston, Lincolnshire, from which customs officers seized 17 tonnes of Philippine coral last year after allegations of improper importation. Alan Teesdale, owner of Tricort, who denies any illegality, said yesterday that he thought the harvesting of coral to supply Western aquariums and the curios trade could be done sustainably without long-term damage to reefs.

His view is disputed by the Marine Conservation Society, which believes that coral gathering represents a real threat to reefs, already at risk from pollution, coastal development and violent fishing methods such as dynamiting.

The society is trying to focus public attention on the trade in the same way that ivory was scrutinised three years ago. This week it sent a booklet to 260 dealers in shells, corals and sponges at resorts all over Britain, which are gearing up for their summer trade, asking them to think again about coral sales.

"Coral reefs are often thought of as the rainforests of the sea because of their richness in species, but all around the world



Endangered species: the Sanganeb reef off Sudan and, below, the other main coral sites. About 60 per cent are found in the Indian Ocean and about 14 per cent in both the Caribbean and the south Pacific

they seem to be declining in health," Bob Earl, the society's head of conservation, said. "The supplying of aquariums and the curios trade is now a direct threat. We think people should think again about the sale of coral. We also think the government should monitor coral imports much more closely."

Government figures on coral imports are confused, making any accurate picture of trends impossible. Imports are recorded either as individual corals, unweighed, or as amounts by weight. The latest available figures are for 1989, and they show that Britain imported 15,305 individual pieces of various sizes.

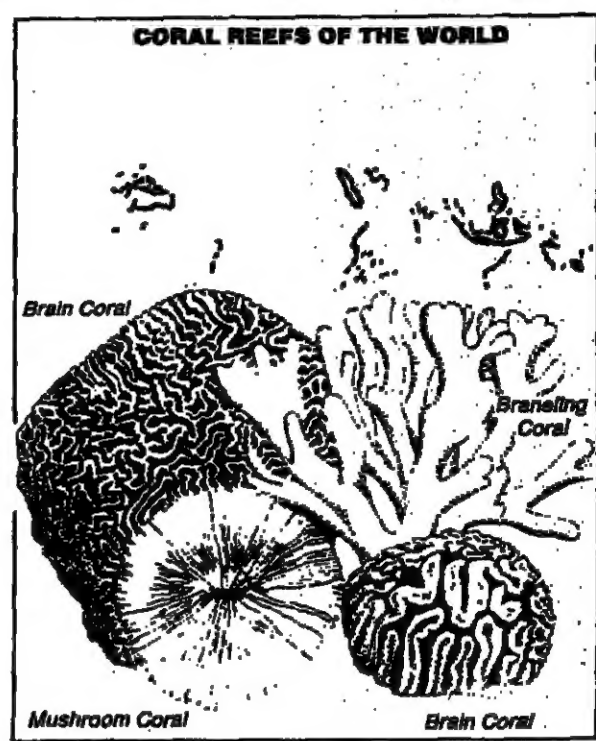
Mr Teesdale, who said he was one of several importers, added that the 80 tonnes seized last week would have represented about four years' supply for him. He was unwilling to place an exact value on the

coral, but said it was worth between £5,000 and £10,000 per tonne.

About 30 per cent of it was destined for the curios trade as small ornamental pieces, he said. The rest was for tropical aquariums, both commercial and private.

"I've been out to the Philippines several times and, if the fishermen on the islands are allowed to harvest the coral and let it grow back, they can harvest just as much as they like without any environmental effect. It can be done sustainably. There are other places where they just dynamite the coral out, and this is the problem."

Mr Teesdale said he had believed the shipments seized last week were being properly exported. He denied that the shipment seized last year had been imported improperly. Customs investigations are continuing in both cases.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Hatton denies charges

Derek Hatton, 44, the former deputy leader of Liverpool City Council, pleaded not guilty yesterday to eight charges of conspiracy to defraud the council when he appeared before Stafford Crown Court.

Six other defendants appearing with him all denied various charges of conspiracy to defraud the council. They included two former Labour councillors, Mr Hatton's tailor and three businessmen.

The case was adjourned to Liverpool Crown Court on October 14 for further legal discussions.

Swap agreed

Russian students are to be invited to study at the Royal College of Defence Studies. The first student will join the 1993 course, and a British student will attend the Military Academy of the General Staff of the Russian Federation.

Player jailed

Third division soccer striker Mark Loram, 24, was jailed for two months at Torquay, Devon, yesterday after he admitted joyriding. The chairman of Torquay United, Mike Bateson, said Loram, a talented player, no longer had a career at the club.

Eel hooks boy

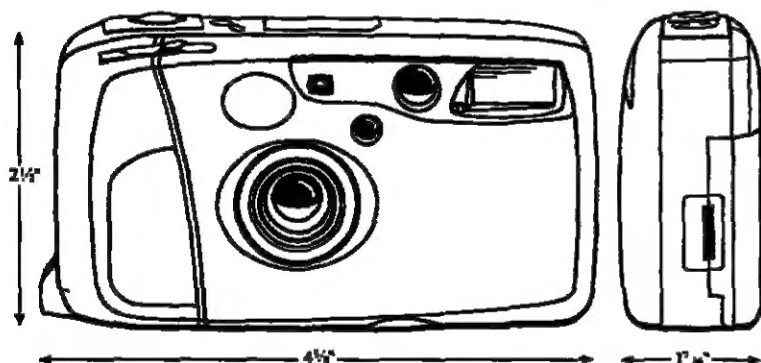
Scott Robson, 10, of Hilsa, Portsmouth, was rescued by helicopter after being dragged on to mudflats by an eel. He had hooked on his fishing line. He was unable to move in the slippery mud. A passer-by saw him and alerted the coastguards.

School closes

A centuries-old Cornish primary school closed for the last time yesterday after the four staff members lost their only pupil. Tina Hooper, 10, who was given individual tuition at Bolventor school on Bodmin Moor, starts at a senior school next term.

KYOCERA

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Weddings, holidays, at home or abroad, the Yashica T4 really is the most perfect of travelling companions.

It'll go anywhere yet never get in the way.

Hardly surprising when you consider its size. A mere 4 1/4" x 2 1/4" x 1 1/4".

Small and light enough to slip into your pocket as easily as a bar of chocolate.

Just 6.6 ounces (or little more than that small bar of chocolate) is all the T4 weighs.

Which is really quite amazing when you pause to consider just how many features have been packed into this pocket compact.

With the emphasis very much on quality. Not just quantity.

Starting with the Carl Zeiss Tessar T* 35mm f3.5 lens.

Which as any pro will tell you, is 'the business'. Especially when it's matched to a shutter which can fire at up to 1/700 sec.

Originally patented in 1903 by Carl Zeiss

of Germany, the overall lens construction has repeatedly set the highest standards.

Even with the advance of optical technology the Tessar T* lens has managed to stay well ahead of the field (a fact recognised by space agency

NASA, who have used Carl Zeiss lenses in every manned space probe since 1962).

Nicknamed 'Eagle Eye' after the Bald Eagle which nature has endowed with pin sharp vision, the Tessar T* captures every detail, every subtlety of colour.

With this camera and this lens, nothing's beyond you.

Now you can take close-ups, portraits, groups or landscapes. All of them pin sharp.

Automatically.

All thanks to the T4's multi-beam autofocus system.

A system clever enough to let you get so close you can photograph an A4 document. (Should you ever want to take your work home with you, that is.)

And you don't have to worry about shooting conditions.

At the push of a button, you can choose exactly the right shooting mode for the occasion.

For example, the T4's Red Eye Reduction

Mode. This will greatly reduce the chance of getting 'red eye' in low light by firing off a pre-flash just before the main flash.

If on the other hand you want to take a night scene or create a certain mood using whatever light is available, you'll want the T4's 'night scene no flash mode' which lets you shoot at a slower speed.

But if you want to leave it all up to the T4 you can.

The flash is automatic, not only when the lights are low, but if the T4 believes the subject is too strongly back-lit. It's quite capable of compensating for it all by itself.

Automatically.

There's even a Background Brightness Control which automatically cuts in to enhance backgrounds, if it judges the lighting situations to be a bit tricky.

But if you want to override the automatic flash so that it fires regardless of the overall lighting conditions, you can.

So you can light your subject and retain background detail. Or use it to 'fill-in' any harsh shadows cast by an overhead sun.

You can even put yourself in the picture simply by using the T4's 10 second self-timer.

It really does cover just about all shooting conditions or moods.

And so that you don't forget what you're doing, a central LCD display panel tells you exactly what mode you're in.

As you might well expect from a camera this advanced it offers all the usual features that more ordinary cameras offer.

Like automatic film advance to Frame 1, automatic wind-on, and automatic rewind.

Everything's designed so that you can concentrate on what really matters: taking great photographs.

And all this from a compact that doesn't just fit your pocket, it won't burn a hole in it either.

£120

£120 is the price of the Yashica T4 with its Carl Zeiss lens.

Which just goes to prove that investing in a serious camera doesn't always mean parting with serious money.

YASHICA T4



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Bush prepares to set Iraq deadline after UN team withdraws

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

TENSION in the Middle East rose sharply last night as a United Nations team was pulled out of Baghdad after failing to enter the agriculture ministry and a report from Washington that an ultimatum setting a deadline for compliance with the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire was imminent.

The UN team of five inspectors and one other official left for Bahrain after ending their vigil outside the ministry on Wednesday because they were at risk from increasingly hostile demonstrators. Mark Silver, the team leader, said they were leaving on orders from Rolf Ekeus, head of the special UN mission charged with dismantling President Saddam Hussein's war machine.

Mr Ekeus was in New York continuing diplomatic efforts to resolve the confrontation which has come closer than the many seen since the end of the Gulf war to reopening hostilities. Leading Arab officials are convinced that Saddam is gambling that any attack would increase his standing in the Arab world.

Before leaving the region yesterday, James Baker, the American Secretary of State, added to the impression of a fast-approaching military showdown by saying in Saudi Arabia: "The US is prepared to do whatever is necessary to enforce security council resolutions." He added firmly that

President Bush "made clear he has not ruled out military action as an option".

Western and Arab regional security experts were sceptical that a new wave of air or missile attacks would succeed in toppling Saddam from power or even in securing a rapid compromise on the agriculture ministry question. There was hope that a last-minute compromise could still be found.

The confrontation came just over a week before the emotional second anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Western officials said that it was occurring at a time when despite reported coup attempts, Saddam and his intelligence apparatus appeared securely in control of the Sunni Muslim heartland in and around Baghdad.

The officials noted that many of the privileged members of the elite able to gain access to Saddam knew their own future depended on his remaining in power and were unlikely to become involved in plots to overthrow him. The Israeli intelligence service, Mossad, is known to have failed to set up a team inside Iraq to assassinate the president.

Arab diplomats said that Mr Baker had failed to secure full backing from America's former Arab coalition partners for any renewed attacks on Iraq. The diplomats said that

there was a ground swell of feeling against military action in the Arab world where the agriculture ministry standoff has been depicted as a penny issue.

An American source close to Mr Baker said that it had been hoped that planes from the Saudi and possibly the Egyptian air force would join in any new bombing missions, but that did not now seem likely.

Behind the scenes, intense efforts to find a diplomatic solution were continuing with Rahim al-Kital, Iraq's ambassador to the UN office in Vienna, claiming that Iraqi proposals to open the ministry to inspectors from neutral countries, such as Austria and Switzerland, would be acceptable to the UN. "There is some reason to be optimistic about this point," he said.

United Nations envoys in New York said that Iraq had originally suggested a team from non-allied nations on the council and not under the jurisdiction of the special inspection commission, a proposal that was flatly rejected. However, the envoys said that one compromise might include dispatching inspectors from such nations as Austria and Sweden, but still firmly under the command of the special commission.

Iraq denies that the building houses military secrets, and even Western officials admit that those that were there are likely to have been destroyed during the deadlock since the UN weapons inspectors first tried to enter it on July 5. The officials insist, however, that the question has become a vital matter of principle on which the UN's standing depends.

Among moderate Arab governments, there are fears that renewed military action will be exploited by Islamic fundamentalists to whip up support and to redouble their opposition to those who fought in the coalition against Iraq in 1991, notably Egypt, which is suffering its worst Islamic-related violence for over a decade.

Cabinet summoned, page 1



Hand signal: Rahim al-Kital, an Iraqi official, claiming yesterday that Baghdad would allow neutral countries to inspect its agriculture ministry

Trial puts CIA role in Contra arms sales under spotlight

THE CIA's role in the Iran-Contra affair came under the spotlight yesterday when a court in Washington was told that the agency had in 1986 tried to conceal from Congress details of the Reagan administration's secret and illegal military supply network to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

On the first day of the trial of Clair George, the CIA's former deputy director of operations, a special prosecutor alleged that the CIA had engaged in a huge cover-up and had lied to a congressional committee about its knowledge of the secret arms deals with the rebels. Mr George, who is the highest-ranking CIA official to be prosecuted in connection with the Iran-Contra affair, is facing nine charges of lying and obstructing congressional and grand jury enquiries. His trial is likely to prove highly embarrassing for the Bush administration and is bound to renew Democratic calls for Mr Bush to reveal all that he knew about the Iran-Contra affair during his time as vice-president in the Reagan administration.

Craig Gillen, the Iran-Contra prosecutor, told the jury that Mr George had full details about the secret arms supply network as he had been inundated with cables from CIA outposts informing him that Oliver North, then a White House aide, was running the Contra supply effort. Mr Gillen alleged that Mr George had discussed with William Casey, the then CIA director, whether to reveal to Congress what they knew about Mr North's activities. They decided not to, according to the prosecutor.

The jury was told that another CIA operative, Alan Fiers, the chief prosecution witness, would tell them during the trial that Mr George had lied to Congress and hid Mr North's network from congressional investigators. Mr George's lawyer, Rich-

America has put the CIA on trial for arms deals, Jamie Dettmer writes from Washington

ard Hibey, said his client was the target of a political prosecution. He accused Mr Fiers of engaging in a cover-up on his own, without consulting his boss, Mr George. Mr Hibey said Mr Fiers "wove the web of deception" and intended to deceive Congress even before he met with Mr George. Mr Gillen, however, said Fiers was just following orders.

One of the first witnesses to



North: certain to be called as witness

be called by the prosecution in the case will be Senator John Kerry, a member of the Senate foreign relations committee, who pressed the CIA for information after a plane involved in supplying the Contras crashed in October 1986. Congress had banned all American military assistance to the rebels. At the time, Mr George told Mr Kerry and the Senate committee: "We do not know the individuals involved in this affair."

The prosecutors plan to produce dozens of CIA cables from agents in Latin America describing Colonel North's operations. Mr George has pleaded innocent of all charges. He claims that he was too busy to take in the significance of the North operation.

Mr North, who directed the whole operation of covert arms sales to Iran and the supplying of the Contras, is almost certain to be called as a witness.

● Lima: Shaken residents fled the streets of Lima late on Thursday hoping to escape the wrath of Maoist guerrillas enforcing a two-day strike call with 80 bombings around the city. The toll from two days of attacks rose to at least 12 dead, including five taxi drivers blown up in their cars, a bomb-squad policeman, a gas station attendant and a pedestrian. More than 40 others have been injured.

Many Lima residents braved the blasts and rebel threats on Thursday and set out to work, travelling on foot, in police cars and in trucks, as public buses were running only about 10 percent of their routes. But by nightfall, the streets were empty.

The Maoist rebels killed three people in a truck transporting livestock on Thursday. The truck was set on fire along with a bus intercepted on the Pan-American Highway 100 miles north of Lima. (AFP)

PEOPLE

Bias claim by woman with death camp link

Hannah Goldstein, 46, the daughter of the British officer who liberated the Buchenwald concentration camp, accused Israeli immigration authorities yesterday of religious bias after they refused to grant her citizenship.

Mrs Goldstein, whose case was brought before Israel's supreme court this week, charged yesterday that she is the victim of discrimination by the Israeli interior ministry because she is not Jewish. "I have loved Israel and the Israelis ever since I came here to teach ballet," said Mrs Goldstein, whose father, Colonel Lionel Montre, commanded allied forces when they liberated the survivors of the notorious German prison camp.

Imelda Marcos, the former Philippines first lady, bowed to the government and agreed to

bury her husband's remains in his northern Philippine home town instead of in the capital, Manila. Mrs Marcos has meanwhile been authorised by Philippine courts to travel to Hong Kong for her first overseas trip since returning from exile last November.

The Kenyan high court has dismissed a lawsuit against the opposition leader Kenneth Matiba by his own Forum for the Restoration of Democracy party alleging he printed 1,000,000 membership cards without permission, newspapers reported.

The South African government has banned Michael Jackson's *In the Closet* video and the *Use Your Illusion* double album by the rock band Guns N' Roses as offensive and undesirable.



Baker hopes high at end of mission

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Middle East peace shuttle of James Baker, the American Secretary of State, ended yesterday with hopes high that direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours will resume by mid-September at the latest.

Although Arab leaders insisted that the new peace proposals put forward by Mr Yitzhak Rabin did not go far enough, there was a feeling behind the scenes that the atmosphere for negotiation has improved with the advent of a new Israeli government.

Mr Baker said in Saudi Arabia: "We have seen [Arab] statements welcoming this change... it presents new opportunities for moving the peace process." Before he left his sixth port of call on his latest mission, he outlined the progress to Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister. The prince said: "We are encouraged with the reports that the Secretary of State has brought with him and we will support the peace process with new hopes now."

Escobar sets out his terms for surrender

FROM REUTER IN BOGOTÁ

THE fugitive drug lord Pablo Escobar has told the Colombian government he is ready to return to jail on certain conditions, but the government said in a statement yesterday that his surrender must be unconditional.

The official statement, read on Colombian radio, said Escobar's lawyers had told the government of the Medellín cartel leader's intention to surrender immediately to Colombian authorities under a series of conditions.

Escobar escaped from jail on Wednesday after serving 13 months following his surrender. The search continued for him yesterday. Escobar's lawyers said the government must respect the original conditions on which he surrendered, that he must be returned to his original prison, and that civilian guards remain in charge of prison security.

But the government said it rejected Escobar's conditions. "For the national government, the only proper thing is the unconditional surrender of the

accused," it said. It said the government would guarantee a fair trial and a secure prison if he surrendered. Escobar and nine other members of the Medellín cocaine cartel were arrested in the Envigado prison near the northwestern city of Medellín on Wednesday during an armed uprising in protest at a government decision to transfer them to a military base.

The escape undermined the government's drug policy and has embarrassed the country internationally. Escobar, who gave himself up to authorities a year ago in exchange for leniency, has said the transfer violated a commitment given by the government at that time that he would not be sent to any other prison.

Escobar is worried about his own safety and believes that the Envigado prison is the only one which guarantees his protection from enemies. The lawyers said he was ready to surrender now under conditions, including respect for the terms under which he surrendered 13 months ago.

Clinton plays the family favourite

The Democrats are challenging Bush on traditional Republican territory, Jamie Dettmer reports

BILL Clinton grew in stature and confidence this week. President Bush shrank further inside his suit. While the Democratic challenger exuded energy and good cheer and revelled in the attentions of large and enthusiastic crowds on his six-day bus tour around the industrial heartland of America, the Republican incumbent grew greyer.

The tired and perplexed expression that occasionally darted across the president's face in the spring with the sudden rise of Ross Perot's independent challenge for the White House is now almost permanent. Jimmy Carter had that expression when he headed to the polls and rout in 1980.

Defeat is a word the Republican party has not associated with presidential elections for 16 years. But with barely 100 days to go before voting, the Republican party is examining Mr Bush's face closely, and not liking what it sees. The panic

that has struck the Grand Old Party in the past few days — and led to a bout of infighting normally associated with the Democrats — is due to the realisation that Mr Clinton will not be the pushover Michael Dukakis was in 1988.

Mr Clinton is a fighter. He proved that by surviving a bruising, battering primary season and by staying on his feet after being accused of draft-dodging and womanising. He has also served notice this week that he has no intention of delivering "family values" up to the Republicans. He and his clearest running mate, Senator Al Gore, and his vice-presidential nominee's apple-pie family, are clearly going to struggle to capture every bit of schmaltzy turf

they can. As Robert Dole, a Republican senator, acknowledged yesterday: "It is going to be a tough race, no doubt about it."

Senator Dole saw the president on Thursday and pressed what many of his colleagues on Capitol Hill are saying: "Don't rely on pulling the fat out of the fire by launching a late, last-ditch negative campaign against Clinton. More will be needed than trying to repeat the destruction job that was done on the punch-bag Michael Dukakis."

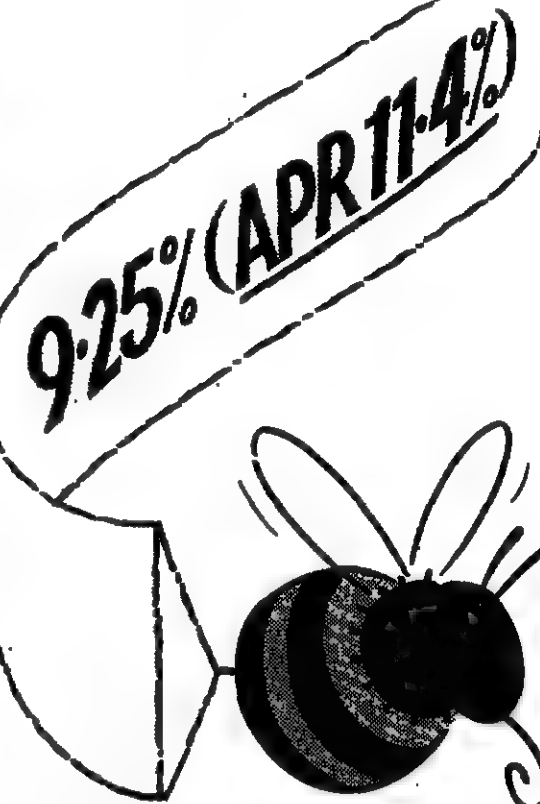
Voters, worried about the economy, are angered by what they see as inaction in the Oval office. They are in far too sullen a mood to want just to enjoy a grandstand view of a prize fight. Several Republican pollsters have

issued the same warning. "If the president's people think they have to do nothing more than bash Governor Clinton to win, they are sadly misreading the American public," said Bill McInturf, who worked for the 1988 Bush campaign.

Both conservative and moderate wings of the party accept that the president must frame a new economic policy that will bring hope to voters and persuade Americans that a second-term Bush administration has answers to domestic problems. But what kind of economic package should be proposed? As the president muses on why Americans do not seem inclined to reward him for his past foreign policy performance, his administration is still split between "balance-the-budget" advocates and supporters of Jack Kemp, the housing secretary, who argues for a package of tax incentives designed to stimulate economic growth.

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Space-age security cocoons the greatest show on Earth



Pujol: seizing the chance to advertise Catalonia

IT TOOK Barcelona more than a century to build even part of Gaudi's Sagrada Família cathedral but just six years to prepare the stage for the greatest show on Earth, the 25th Olympic Games that will be formally opened tonight by King Juan Carlos.

But what tonight's estimated worldwide television audience of 3.5 billion people will not see are the extraordinary security precautions, the political bickering, and the enormous costs involved in playing host to 15,400 athletes and officials from nearly 170 countries. It is supposed to be the most sophisticated security operation ever mounted.

The 1972 Munich Olympics, in which 11 athletes were murdered, are fresh in security officials' minds. Spain has suffered its share of violence

The glittering start of the Olympic Games today puts a £210m Spanish policing operation to the test, writes Edward Owen from Barcelona

from Basque and Catalan separatists, without having to contemplate the extension of the Croat-Serb or Arab-Israeli conflicts to Spanish soil.

Strategically located next to the Olympic Village is the Games security centre which looks more like a space centre's mission control. Hilario Garenno, the spokesman for the Barcelona civil governor, says the security operation has cost \$400 million (£210 million). From the headquarters, officers command a security force of 45,000, which in-

cludes three different police forces, Civil Guards, servicemen and 3,400 security guards hired by the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee.

Seated at a huge U-shaped console, the controllers face a wall of screens showing everything from satellite pictures of the city to the route of VIPs as they travel to and from events. They have access to images from 600 television cameras, some on an airship, others on helicopters, as well as on board four mini-submarines and six

patrol boats. "If there's any emergency, we can see what's happening and control the situation," said Señor Garenno. "We will know exactly where the bomb squad is, where the VIPs are, where the plainclothes agents are. We have direct access to firemen and hospitals and can immediately co-ordinate evacuation procedures. These are the first Games in which everyone is concentrated by the sea. There will be 15 transatlantic liners in the port, the Olympic sailing port and village are near by and we have to patrol the sea in a 12-mile radius," he added.

He said that international collaboration on security had been extensive and that M15, M16 and Scotland Yard had been very impressed when visiting the centre. Señor Garenno noted that the authorities viewed the nationalist threat to the Olympics and has been encouraging the nationalists. Señor Pujol has been advertising Catalonia around the world as "the country" that got the Games.

Like Señor Pujol, the secretary-general of sports at the Generalitat, the Catalan government, Josep Lluís Vilaseca, gives all the credit to the region and none to Madrid and claims that the Generalitat's contribution to the Olympics amounted to just under a quarter, or about £550 million, although most of that money came actually from Madrid. Señor Vilaseca represented Catalonia on the Barcelona organising committee, and claims that the only disagreement he had with the other committee members

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from the Spanish Olympic organisation, the city hall and the central government was about the choice of Cobi, the squat mascot for the Games.

The Catalan language, flag and anthem will be used during the Games and there is no doubt that the Catalans' natural flair for business will pay huge dividends at the expense of landlocked Madrid, which has paid the lion's share of the bill.

Yesterday, officials were determined that local nationalist fervour, which has reached new heights on the eve of the Games, would not spoil the event.

Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15
Games survival, page 36
Saturday Review, page 4

Rome extends powers to fight Mafia as bomb victim is buried

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THOUSANDS of Sicilians attended an emotional but dignified funeral for Paolo Borsellino, the anti-Mafia judge, yesterday as the government won a confidence vote on a package of tough measures against organised crime.

The composition of the mourners at the parish church of Santa Lucia di Marillic in Palermo contrasted sharply with violent protests that erupted against the national police chief and government figures on Tuesday during a state funeral held for the five bodyguards of the magistrate who were also killed in a car bomb attack in the Sicilian capital on Sunday.

Investigators said last night they had arrested a private security guard working in the street where the bomb went off on charges of aiding and abetting the attack. Police in Palermo, the Mafia's Sicilian stronghold, made the arrest.

Security was tight outside the church where the funeral was held, with police marksmen posted on surrounding rooftops. In his hourly, the

parish priest, Father Giuseppe Bucaro, said: "We all have a sacred duty to continue this struggle because Borsellino died for all of us. Let us collaborate with the judiciary, cutting out any link with private interests, to show ourselves and the world that Borsellino lives on."

The family of the judge had refused to allow his coffin to be taken to the state funeral held in Palermo cathedral, implicitly accusing the state of doing too little to protect him. However, his widow Agnese, his son Manfredi, and his two daughters, Lucia and Flaminia, eventually invited President Scalfaro together with Claudio Martelli, the justice minister, and Vincenzo Parisi, the national police commander, to the funeral.

Signor Parisi was called a buffoon by protesters as he followed the hearse. The congregation applauded as the leader of the new anti-Mafia Rete (Network) party arrived.

Police said that the Sicilian Mafia was apparently planning to murder Antonio Di

Pietro, a magistrate investigating a corruption scandal in Milan. The report was based on a tip-off from a gangster turned informer and was received three days before the assassination of Signor Borsellino. The informer was quoted as saying that the judge's investigation had threatened the money laundering activities of Salvatore Riina, the presumed head of the Cosa Nostra who has been on the run since 1969.

The Milan scandal, which first blew up in February, has led to the arrest of more than 60 businessmen and local politicians and denied the image of Giuliano Amato's Socialist party. The investigation focuses on a network of kickbacks allegedly paid in return for public contracts.

Eight of 20 magistrates involved in investigations of the Mafia in Palermo confirmed yesterday that they were resigning in protest at their lack of protection after the murder of Signor Borsellino, and of Judge Giovanni Falcone in May.

In the upper house of parliament, the Senate, the government comfortably won a confidence vote approving an anti-Mafia decree that gives police and magistrates wider powers against organised crime.

Once the package is approved by the lower house, police will be allowed to make block-by-block house searches. Phone tapping will be more widespread, and police efforts to infiltrate organised crime will be stepped up. The use of undercover "sting" operations and wiretapping of suspects will be made easier.

The sweeping measure gives more protection to police informants and repentant mobsters, who are vital to cracking the Mafia's still-solid code of silence. A national "super-prosecutor" will direct the country's crackdown on the Mafia and related crime gangs.

The vote was 163 to 106. Approval by the Chamber of Deputies is expected next week, and the government says it will implement the measures as quickly as possible.

● Milan: A chief executive of a Fiat carmaker subsidiary was arrested last night in the Milan enquiry. Police officials said Giancarlo Cozza, 55, managing director of Fiat's rolling stock unit, was arrested on corruption charges. Luigi Caprotti, 67, president of two Iveco bus dealerships, has also been held.

A Fiat spokesman in Turin said that Signor Cozza has been employed by the Fiat group since 1975. Stockbrokers said that the announcement of yesterday's arrests contributed to the weakness of Fiat's shares. (Reuters)



Widow's grief: Agnese Borsellino, the judge's wife, being comforted at his Palermo funeral yesterday by Antonino Caponnetto, one of his colleagues

Russia proposes new banks to fund land reform system

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

ALEKSANDR Rutskoi, the Russian vice-president, yesterday presented a detailed blueprint for agricultural reform which entails setting up a series of land banks to fund the redistribution of all land in Russia. He said that the banks would be established shortly by presidential decree.

Mr Rutskoi's programme also envisages the issue of certificates authorising the type of land use — agricultural, industrial, residential or water resources — and proposes simplified procedures for individuals to lease and eventually own land. At present, the allocation of land often depends on local coun-

cils, which in many rural areas rule as feudal lords and frequently demand hefty bribes from people wanting to start their own farms. Under Mr Rutskoi's proposals, power to lease or sell land will rest with the new banks.

Attempts by President Yeltsin and Russian reformers to legalise private ownership of land, including the buying and selling of agricultural land, have been repeatedly blocked by the Russian parliament, although long-term leasing and even inheritance of the lease is now permitted. Mr Rutskoi, a fervent supporter of private land ownership despite his reputation as a

cautious reformer, has spent the best part of six months working on his programme. Mr Rutskoi and his team were careful not to present their programme as a blueprint for the wholesale decollectivisation of agriculture, although this is the logical conclusion of the measures he proposes.

Forecasts released yesterday suggested that Russia's grain harvest this year might not be as bad as feared. President Yeltsin said in the Siberian city of Omsk that the harvest was likely to reach 96 to 98 million tonnes, allowing imports to be reduced from 25 million tonnes last year to 10 million this year.

Moscow spy chiefs seek to prosecute Yeltsin supporters

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S security ministry, rapidly regaining the power and role of the Soviet KGB, yesterday stepped up its war of words with President Yeltsin's liberal supporters and said that it had reported two of them to the public prosecutor.

The pair — Lev Ponomarev, the reformist politician, and Father Gleb Yakunin, the former prisoner and human rights campaigner — responded that they would sue a ministry spokesman for defamation.

Worsening relations between liberal members of the Yeltsin camp and the ministry which inherited the buildings, staff, files and most of the functions of the KGB, show how the balance of power has changed since the post-coup euphoria of last autumn.

The spy network has accused the two liberals of giving away state secrets by passing to the press confidential documents to which they were given access during a parliamentary investigation of the August putsch. Aleksandr Gurov, a ministry spokesman, described as an "abuse of trust" the politicians' readiness to leak documents marked "top secret" without the government's decree needed to change their status.

A dossier documenting the actions of the two men, who cannot be charged unless parliament lifts their immunity, has been sent for a "judicial assessment" to a state prosecutor, who is understood to have said that the file needed more precise formulation.

Many of the documents made public by Father Gleb refer to the KGB's infiltration of the Russian Orthodox Church and its use of international church conferences to promote Soviet foreign policy. Last year, when the KGB's monopoly was nominally abolished and its functions divided among the republics, it was announced with some fanfare that the departments responsible for harassing dissidents and overseeing religious affairs had been abolished.

The fact that the ministry is now so defensive about documents detailing one of the KGB's least defensible activities suggests that it is dropping all pretence of being substantially different from its predecessor organisation. The two liberals, co-founders of the Democratic Russia movement which masterminded President Yeltsin's election, said that they would sue Mr Gurov for hinting that they had once worked for the KGB. He

suggested that their interest in the KGB files might reflect a desire to find material which would embarrass them. "Maybe they were looking for things which they wrote, or which somebody wrote about them," Mr Gurov said.

The Russian security ministry has, in the past few months, signed substantial co-operation agreements with its counterparts in the four biggest former Soviet republics, most recently Ukraine. The accords cover joint efforts against terrorism and organised crime as well as countering the intelligence activities of third countries.

While relations between the old republics are often characterised by boasts of nationalist rhetoric, their intelligence services have quietly agreed to co-operate.

Council has to finance sex grant

FROM MARY FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

DUTCH local councils could face a wave of applications for sexual grants after a high court ruling this week upholding a physically handicapped man's right to receive a monthly social security payment for sex. The 31-year-old applied to the council in northern Noord-Holland several months ago for a social security contribution to the monthly cost of the services of a female "sexual aid worker".

The council rejected the claim but was taken to the high court by the provincial authorities, which believe it is a duty of local councils to provide sexual help.

According to the provisional ruling, the man is entitled to a monthly grant of 65 guilders (£20) as part payment for the services of the woman, who specialises in providing sex for the physically handicapped at 150 guilders per one-and-a-half-hour session. The court concluded that the sum involved was so small that it posed no burden for the council's finances.

The man, who lives in a home for the severely physically handicapped, based his claim on a psychological report which concluded that he had a need of sex once a month.

UN armoured cars try to rescue convoy

BY ADAM LEBOR IN SARAJEVO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AN ARMoured United Nations relief column was yesterday sent to rescue a UN aid convoy trapped in mine fields six miles outside the siege town of Gorazde.

Dispatched on Thursday, the aid convoy was carrying 15 tonnes of food and medicine as well as representatives from America and the World Health Organisation. One person was slightly injured when the convoy of two armoured vehicles and two armoured trucks ran into a mine field in Serb-controlled territory. Now the vehicles are unable to go forward or back and the UN is considering rescuing the trapped personnel by helicopter. An aid lorry and a French armoured personnel carrier were damaged by mines. Local Serbian commanders have told the UN that it is not safe to continue the journey.

Last night, the relief column had still not reached the trapped convoy. The two armoured cars and two recovery trucks were reported to be several miles away.

Conditions within Gorazde, which has a population of 70,000, are reported to be horrific. Corpses are said to litter the streets, while the starving population scavenges for anything edible. Heavy shelling continued. The past two days' events have shown how hazardous the distribu-

tion of food and medical aid in Bosnia has become. In Sarajevo, the capital, hungry residents have been shelled and mortared as they waited for food aid.

Yesterday, Sarajevo suffered the heaviest fighting for weeks although UN relief flights continued to land. Mortar barrages continued throughout the night, according to police reports, and rockets and machinegun fire could be heard. Serbian forces also launched an unsuccessful ground attack. Sarajevo radio reported.

In Belgrade, Radomir Bozovic, Serbia's prime minister, said yesterday that the UN economic sanctions imposed on the rump Yugoslavia last May were destroying its economy. "These sanctions are destroying the economic tissue of our republics," he told a news conference. He was referring to Serbia and Montenegro, the two republics which make up the new Yugoslavia. The "unjust sanctions" accounted for about 15 per cent of a 35 per cent drop in production, he said.

To cushion the effects of sanctions, the Serbian parliament this month adopted a law that gave the government tight control over the economy.

"Ethnic cleansing", page 1

Arletty, the queen of a louche world, dies at 94

ARLETTY was not just an actress. She was a mood, an epoch. In the late 1940s, our British discovered to our astonishment that the French had made some of the world's great films under the noses of the German occupiers. The one that bowled us over was Marcel Carné's story of life in the Paris boulevard theatre of the 19th century, *Les Enfants du Paradis*. At its heart was Arletty, who died yesterday at 94.

She was in her mid-forties at the time — born in 1898, with the unpromising name Léonie Bathiat. Did her screen name evoke the skylark, the *alouette*, soaring forever out of man's reach? Certainly in *Les Enfants* that was her role — the actress-courtesan whom three men love to distraction, an actor, an aristocrat and a mine (heartbreakingly played by Jean-Louis Barrault).

This was a skylark who had climbed up from the mud. In the film, as the actress Garance, she has made her way into the theatre from being a laundress and an artist's model. She was not a great beauty. Rather, there was something quintessentially French about that shining black hair, those half-closed, almond-shaped eyes, those lips that never gave more than a half-smile. She was both captivating and tough. Who could hold out against her?

Derwent May reflects on the career of the remarkable actress who died this week

Post-war filmmakers soon discovered her pre-war films, also made by Carné, *Hôtel du Nord* and *Le Jour Se Lève*. These were masterpieces of poetic drabness, in both of which she was the mistress of a murderer on the run, played respectively by Louis Jouvet and Jean Gabin. Lying on a brass bed with Gabin in a peaked cap — that is the other image that most filmgoers have of her.

Some have seen her performance as Garance in *Les Enfants* as embodying the spirit of the resistance in a way the Germans would not notice (nor did they). It is ironic, then, that this woman who had resisted the charms of the Aga Khan, fell for a German officer during the war, and was briefly imprisoned as a collaborator afterwards — just when she was enjoying success abroad.

She never achieved the same fame again, though she went on acting, playing Blanche in Cocteau's 1950 production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. But this queen of a louche world will not be forgotten.

Obituary, page 17



Face of an epoch: Arletty as she appeared in her finest role, Garance in *Les Enfants du Paradis*

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Latin leaders give Castro the cold shoulder

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MADRID

PRESIDENT Castro of Cuba was all but declared an outcast yesterday by government heads from Latin America, Spain and Portugal, who have been meeting in Madrid at an Ibero-American summit.

As the two-day event drew to a close, Dr Castro found himself diplomatically isolated as never before by a joint declaration of the 17 participating countries which stated their rejection of all forms of authoritarianism. "Our objective is a free, open and pluralistic society, with full exercise of all individual liberties, without persecution and exclusion and directed at the achievement of progress and social justice," it said.

The document added: "We observe with preoccupation certain tendencies and attitudes that seek to forget the basis of our founding principles or impose solutions by force. From this perspective we express our rejection of any form or intent to alter the

institutional order of democracy in the Ibero-American countries."

The declaration appears to mark the end of efforts to persuade Dr Castro of the error of his ways by gentle persuasion. He has been all but abandoned by those governments which had hoped to bring him in from the cold, and his one-party Communist rule has been shunned and vilified.

While government heads from the 17 countries held numerous bilateral meetings in private over a range of cultural and economic issues, the Cuban dictator was left seething over criticism in the Spanish press with no one to talk to. Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, was expected to meet Dr Castro last night but diplomatic sources said that the encounter was merely to reiterate Madrid's strong views on the need for democracy in Cuba. "We resent the fact that the only country that is not in the democratic stream is Cuba," said Innocencio Arias, the Spanish secretary of state for Ibero-American relations.

Spain tried hard but unsuccessfully last year at the first Ibero-American summit in Mexico to squeeze reforms from Dr Castro. "It did not work then but we want to keep putting the pressure on him," Señor Arias said.

Cuban exiles in Madrid said they were delighted by Dr Castro's ostracism. Carlos Alberto Montaner, one of the leaders of the anti-Castro Democratic Platform, said: "Latin America has lost patience with Castro. He has no friends left. They have tried to treat him with respect but there is a general feeling that Castro has betrayed them by his intransigence."

Mario Vargas Llosa, the Peruvian writer and politician, said: "Castro looks increasingly like a figure in a comic opera."

Paris Reporters Sans Frontières, the French-run press freedom group, yesterday launched an appeal designed to embarrass Dr Castro (see Mac Carthy article).

The group cited the case of journalist Restano Diaz, who was given a ten-year sentence last May "simply for expressing different ideas from the Cuban government". He remains the only journalist jailed for his opinions in all the countries represented at the Madrid meeting, the group said.

Thirteen Latin American and Spanish newspaper editors joined with the Montpelier-based group yesterday in a direct appeal to President Castro for the release of their colleague.

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Tutu makes appeal to De Klerk

Johannesburg: Archbishop Desmond Tutu said a general strike called by Nelson Mandela, ANC president, could fuel township violence but added that it was up to President de Klerk and his government to avert the stoppage.

Archbishop Tutu told reporters after meeting Cyrus Vance, the UN peace envoy, that he feared the strike would cause "more anarchy and killings." But he added: "I urge the government to do three things within the next few days — take immediate clear and specific steps to end political violence, commit yourself to a sovereign constitution-making body and make August 3 a day of reconciliation."

Islands vote

Victoria: Seychelles' 50,000 voters cast their votes in an election intended to end 15 years of one-party rule, elect a commission to draw up a new constitution and usher in democracy. (Reuters)

Pleas heeded

Abidjan: President Houphouët-Boigny, 86, Africa's longest serving leader, announced the imminent release of all Ivory Coast's political prisoners, saying he had heeded appeals to forgive and forget. (Reuters)

MPs hit back

Warsaw: The Polish parliament has found that there are grounds to put Jan Olszewski, the former prime minister, on trial for publishing a list of officials alleged to have been communist agents. (Reuters)

Batman robber

Munich: An armed robber masked as Batman held seven bank employees hostage. But he was unable to open the safe and surrendered. (AFP)



Looking for support: President Castro waving to the crowd as he leaves his hotel in Madrid for a meeting with King Juan Carlos of Spain during the Ibero-American summit

China 'has 10m in prisons'

FROM JIM ADKINS IN WASHINGTON

CHINA is holding more than 10 million of its 1.2 billion population — including at least one million political prisoners — in forced labour camps that produce goods for domestic and foreign markets, says a Chinese-American who spent 19 years in prison.

Harry Wu, a research fellow with the Stanford University-based Hoover Institution, said China continues to make big profits from prison-made products and has no intention of abiding by promises to the United States to curtail exports of such goods. "We condemned Stalin's gulag. We condemned Hitler's concentration camps. How can we hold different standards for the laogai (forced-labour camps) of China?" Mr Wu asked in a speech to the Heritage Foundation.

Mr Wu, sometimes disguised as a businessman seeking contracts, visited 20 labour camps in China last year, which he said were "the foundation of Chinese totalitarianism" and had to pay their own way. In the 1950s and 1960s most laogai were engaged in farming; now many have moved into manufacturing, with some 40 per cent of their products destined for export. "Never has a nation created a prison system that pervades all aspects of production," he said. (AP)

Another reason for the fear of the Ndau is that Renamo's president, Afonso Dhakama, is also a Ndau, and insists that Ndau is his movement's semi-official language. This would also, partly, explain the refusal of the Mozambique government to acknowledge the *regulos*. Could the *regulos* have another ceremony now

just two rain ceremonies in 17 years of Frelimo rule — both of them successful. Although Frelimo has introduced greater political freedoms in areas of the country not under control of their guerrilla enemies, Renamo, administration is still through party secretaries. Earlier this year the local secretariat, in desperation, called on Mrs Manuel's family and begged them to perform a rain-making ceremony. Money was collected for the festivities from the community.

"All the money disappeared and now the spirits are very angry," explained Mrs Manuel. "There is much we can teach these young people but they don't want to listen. We just keep quiet."

West presses Asean states to act over human rights

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

BURMA came under severe criticism yesterday from Western countries over its human rights record, during a meeting between the Association of South East Asian Nations and foreign ministers from its industrial partners.

Although Burma is not a member of Asean and was not invited to the meeting, Rangoon's ruling junta bore the brunt of attacks by the foreign ministers of the European Community, United States, Australia and Canada when they began their three-day dialogue with Asean foreign ministers.

The question of human rights in the region is also affecting relations between Asean and the EC. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, told Ali Alatas, the Indonesian foreign minister, that the third Asean-EC agreement on co-operation over trade and aid, to be signed in October, was in trouble. British sources say Portugal has vetoed further negotiations on the agreement because of the killings by Indonesian troops of demonstrators in East Timor last November.

Canada's secretary of state of external affairs, Barbara McDougall, expressed dismay at China's support for the Burmese junta. Calling the repression in Burma "a blight on the regional landscape that cries up for concerted action," Ms McDougall said the United Nations General Assembly

should call for a military embargo on the country. Expressing frustration that Asean's quiet diplomacy was not working, she said: "The time is right for more vocal and firm action."

Taking a similar line, the United States Under-Secretary of State, Robert Zoellick, asked: "Isn't it time to say enough is enough?" The Australian foreign minister, Gareth Evans, also urged Asean to put pressure on Burma.

However, Mr Evans, who was more equivocal in his remarks on Indonesia, Australia's closest neighbour. While expressing shock at the violence in

East Timor when troops fired on demonstrators, he said: "Equally, we have welcomed the significant steps taken to respond to that violence by the Indonesian government in a way which acknowledged the force of both international and internal concerns."

Anticipating criticism, Asean foreign ministers had issued a rebuttal directed at the EC's attempt to link economic co-operation and aid to human rights. Their communiqué said human rights were applied according to each national context and are "within the competence and responsibility of each country".

Scientists identify deadly virus in US

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN scientists have identified a potentially deadly virus carried by the Asian tiger mosquito, a disease-carrying insect which has rapidly spread to 23 American states in a few years.

Health officials reported in *Science* journal yesterday that the mosquito, which apparently entered the country in used car tyres shipped to Texas from Japan in 1985, has been found to transmit Eastern equine encephalitis, a rare but

often fatal brain disease when transmitted to people. The striped mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, is one of the most dangerous disease-carriers since it thrives in close proximity to people, feeds avidly on a variety of animals and carries a number of ailments, including several forms of encephalitis and dengue fever.

Depending on the strain, the equine encephalitis usually kills about 30 to 80 per cent of people who contract it.

Share price slump spells disaster for Japanese families

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

Perspiring stockbrokers queued patiently in the scorching midday sun yesterday for lunch boxes of grilled eel to give them stamina and boost their energy levels. Harried waitresses said they had seldom been confronted with so many lugubrious faces.

Laconic grunts emerging between mouthfuls of eel testified to the disastrous performance yesterday of the Tokyo stock market. The Nikkei 225 Average, viewed internationally as the barometer of Japan's economic and financial health, has been teetering on the edge of the dreaded "big plunge" for weeks. At the close of the market yesterday, it had fallen to its lowest level in six years, 60 per cent down from its high of December 1989.

With 26 million people holding shares, the fortunes of the Tokyo stock market have a powerful influence on the Japanese public. During the "bubble years" of the late 1980s, investors watched the value of their savings soar as stock and real estate prices went into orbit. Now they can only watch in horror as the value of their investments dwindles daily.

Many investors are housewives, who while away their days poring over the stock prices in the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, Japan's equivalent of the *Financial Times*. During the bubble years, housewives invested in "family computers" which, attached to their televisions, allowed them to buy and sell stocks as simply as switching channels.

Many women, bored by the solitary nature of this lucrative hobby, arranged stock market coffee mornings. Professional investment advisers were invited to address kitchen gatherings over green tea and azuki bean cakes to tell them of the day's market trends, and then let them loose for hours of trading fun in front of a television screen.

Many office workers, whose pay packets are often controlled by their wives, had their earnings fed steadily into the stock market, some of them unwittingly. These sums have now shrivelled, in some cases to a third of their original size.

One bitter housewife said: "I spent our savings on one share in NTT [Nippon Telegraph and Telephone] which I bought for 3.18 million yen (£13,826) in April 1987. Today it is worth 591,000 yen (£2,569). I feel utterly cheated because securities companies have been involved in scandals and clearly are protecting their best and biggest corporate clients."

Most individuals are characteristically resigned to their fate as the first and least powerful victims of the stock market collapse. They blame the irresponsibility of the large Japanese securities firms, which foisted their least promising stocks on their least discerning investors while artificially boosting the prices of stocks owned by important clients.

However, members of one disbanded coffee morning group recently vented their anger on a hapless salesman who unwisely came knocking at their doors trying to sell more stocks. The young man was diverted of his briefcase and shirt, and locked in a cupboard for five hours.

Japan acts, page 20

C&G Investment Rates

AMOUNT INVESTED	INTEREST PAID	GROSS %*	NET %
Cheltenham & Gloucester Current Account			
£25,000 or more	Annually	8.30	6.22
£10,000-£24,999	Annually	7.90	5.92
£1,000-£9,999	Annually	6.65	4.99
£100-£999	Annually	2.85	1.99

Cheltenham & Gloucester Monthly Interest Account			
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£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	7.65**	5.72
£5,000-£9,999	Monthly	6.46**	4.84

£100 or more	Annually	2.30	1.72
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Maximum permitted under TESSA rules	Annually	10.80% TAX-FREE	
£100 or more	Annually	9.70% TAX-FREE	

£2,500 or more	Annually	10.00	7.50
£5,000 or more	Monthly	9.57**	7.15

New Accounts no longer available	Quarterly	9.64	7.23
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New Accounts no longer available	Half Yearly	9.78	7.32
New Accounts no longer available	Quarterly	9.64	7.23

New Accounts no longer available	Annually	10.80% TAX-FREE	
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New Accounts no longer available	Half Yearly	2.60	1.95
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New Accounts no longer available	Annually	8.94	6.70
New Accounts no longer available	Monthly	8.68	6.51

£25,000 or more	Annually	11.25	8.44
£10,000-£24,999	Annually	10.85	8.14
£5,000 or more	Monthly	10.71**	8.03
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	10.34**	7.76

OTHER ACCOUNTS: All other accounts are reduced by 0.20% gross (0.15% net). Further details available on request.

*Interest is payable gross to non-taxpayers subject to the required certification. Over-claim interest will be deducted at the basic rate, but may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers. Net rates are illustrative only and assume taxation at the basic rate of 25%. **The gross monthly rates, when compounded, equal the gross annual rates shown above. Rates may vary.

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Offended spirits get the blame for Mozambique's drought

THE few western scientists prepared to stick their necks out to explain the terrible droughts sweeping the Horn and the south of Africa may put the disaster down to global warming or the hole in the ozone layer or some other form of man-made ecological disaster. But so far as the traditional witchdoctors of Mozambique are concerned they are missing the point.

Down a dusty road on the outskirts of Beira, Mozambique's biggest port, past a dilapidated western-style building set among banana groves and surprisingly neat hedges, lives Ines Francisca Manuel, who, despite her Christian-sounding name, is a descendant of the region's greatest *regulos*, Luis Bumba.

In the days of Portuguese rule, which ended in 1975, Luis held sway over most of the Beira region including the city itself. And according to Mrs Manuel, his granddaughter, the Portuguese administrators may not have

taken much trouble to build schools and housing for their charges but they made sure they kept Luis happy, and through him the spirits who controlled the rains.

"We did not do the ceremony every year just when there was not enough rain. The Portuguese made sure they came and made sacrifices [melons, cakes and traditional alcoholic drinks]. Often it would rain when we were on the way."

After independence the tribal chiefs and medicine men were abolished. The *regulos* houses were nationalised and the rain-making ceremonies stopped. Now Mozambique, and the rest of southern Africa, is facing the worst drought in memory which threatens to kill 3.1 million people.

The last *regulo* to reign in the Beira area from Mrs Manuel's little hamlet of Samambonga Muave was Manuel José. But he died last year after performing

The drought in Southern Africa has revived traditional methods of making rain. Sam Kiley reports from Maputo

just two rain ceremonies in 17 years of Frelimo rule — both of them successful.

Although Frelimo has introduced greater political freedoms in areas of the country not under control of their guerrilla enemies, Renamo, administration is still through party secretaries. Earlier this year the local secretariat, in desperation, called on Mrs Manuel's family and begged them to perform a rain-making ceremony. Money was collected for the festivities from the community.

"All the money disappeared and now the spirits are very angry," explained Mrs Manuel. "There is much we can teach these young people but they don't want to listen. We just keep quiet."

Probing questions about the nature of the ceremony are met, as all over Africa, by blank stares and evasion. Mrs Manuel's tribe, the Ndau, are perhaps the most superstitious and powerful mediums in Mozambique — a trait which provokes simultaneous fear and contempt in more southern tribes like the Shangaan and westerners like the Shona.

Another reason for the fear of the Ndau is that Renamo's president, Afonso Dhakama, is also a Ndau, and insists that Ndau is his movement's semi-official language. This would also, partly, explain the refusal of the Mozambique government to acknowledge the *regulos*. Could the *regulos* have another ceremony now



that the country is facing such a disaster? "No. We need all the elders to be present and positive. They have all scattered and we also need Frelimo — as our leaders — to be present... but we don't really trust their motives," Mrs Manuel said. Consensus and goodwill were essential ingredients for rain-making she said.

At Chibabava, Mr Dhakama's home town which is cut off from the rest of the country by Renamo's rebels and accessible only from the air, another Ndau medium

said the same. Sitting beneath a tree, exhausted and wizened after several days' perilous march through the bush after her farm was attacked by starving Renamo soldiers in search of food and clothes, sat another old lady. Her hair sculpted into a bowl of tiny dreadlocks dyed red with ochre, she explained that her people had been unable to perform a rain ceremony for years "because we have been scattered by the war".

The woman, far from understanding the politics of Mozambique's 16-year civil war but nevertheless a victim of it, seeks succour in the town with 17,000 inhabitants. She said she had heard of the capital, Maputo, and of Beira: "But they are not in our country".

She said: "If we had been left alone we would have been able to go about our natural ways and the rains would have come. Now the children are starving."

Clifford Longley

Jehovah's Witnesses can help us to clarify the law

Jehovah's Witnesses may deserve no prizes for good answers, but they certainly ask good questions. The questions they repeatedly ask of British society force us to search for common values on which to base public ethics and law, while making as much room as possible for conscience and diversity.

Thus these questions illuminate vexed issues ranging from euthanasia to abortion, so challenging judges, lawmakers and medical professionals, to be humane, consistent and principled. Hard cases, in this sense, make not so much for bad law as for an excellent debate, which clarifies both morality and the law. The "Jehovah's Witnesses" case before the Court of Appeal yesterday, for instance, is expected to produce next week an important judgment on the rights of parents with regard to their children's medical treatment.

Members of this sect object to blood transfusion. They claim it is forbidden by Jehovah, their name for the deity, in such passages as Leviticus 17: 14: "It shall be a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings, that ye eat neither fat nor blood", and Acts 15: 29: "That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood..."

Society makes it lawful for an adult Jehovah's Witness in possession of his faculties to refuse treatment even unto death, but society has been uncompromising in asserting its own values over those of a Jehovah's Witness parent when a child needs treatment including blood transfusion. Routinely, such a parental refusal leads to an application for the child to be made a ward of court, allowing a judge to make an order permitting treatment in the interest of the child's welfare.

The case decided by the Court of Appeal yesterday concerned the grown-up daughter of a Jehovah's Witness, who was critically ill and in need of a blood transfusion. The principle is clear: if her refusal of treatment was made when fully *compos mentis*, whatever her reasons, the court cannot set it aside. In this case, the court was not satisfied she had made such a decision, and treatment was allowed. But a recent Appeal Court judgment concerning an anorexic girl — not a Jehovah's Witness — established that the right to refuse life-saving treatment is not absolute in the case of a person under 18. Being under age, the anorexic girl did not have full legal charge of her own destiny.

The legal right to decline a particular treatment in the knowledge that refusal may lead to death obviously extends to all treatment of adults, whatever the motive, religious or otherwise. So it must include every elderly person with a terminal condition who is entitled in law to object to any attempt to prolong his or her life. This "passive euthanasia" is not regarded as suicide, and is consistent with the principles the law applies to life and death decisions at any other age.

Except before birth. Here there is a sharp departure from first principles, which suggests, even in the absence of external evidence, that the present state of the law on late abortion is an uneasy and unstable compromise. A one-day-old baby in need of a blood transfusion to save its life would, in the absence of consent from the parents, receive the treatment under a court order. This indicates that in the law's eyes the welfare of a born baby automatically overrides the parents' wishes. But in the case of an unborn baby, perhaps only a single day short of birth, there is no such presumption. Section 37 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act of 1990 lowered the legal limit on abortion to 24 weeks, but made an exception where "there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped".

This sudden discontinuity in the legal status of the child at the time of birth did not exist before the 1990 act repealed the 1929 Infant Life Preservation Act. Although the earlier act did not quite grant an almost-born child all the rights of the born, it did give firm legal protection to the unborn child late in pregnancy. This priority given to the welfare of the unborn was recognisably the same principle that applies when courts order blood transfusions for a newborn baby.

But the conditional consent the 1990 act gives to late abortions contradicts the principle that the welfare of a child should always override the wishes of its parents. And society's moral authority to apply the principle to the protection of Jehovah's Witness children begins to look hypocritical. The repeal of the Infant Life Preservation Act, in other words, has torn a jagged hole in the law's otherwise seamless robe.

Tomorrow's Times crossword competition should test more than verbal ingenuity, says John Grant

Plain guide to cryptic clues

could not necessarily deduce it (notes EDE in BAKER). But is the cryptic crossword really to be rendered innocent of all unsupported literary allusion? And will, for instance, the word "single", in the clue "Single girl's best friend", really help the solver to the answer if he doesn't know Anita Loos's maxim that diamonds are a girl's best friend?

This is a far cry from the correspondent who wrote some years ago to say that it was surely automatic that a reasonably well-stocked, if somewhat deviant, mind was sufficient equipment to embark on the puzzle. He even listed some of the set books: "The Destruction of Sennacherib", "Kubla Khan", Ham-

let, Macbeth and Henry IV, Part 2 (Part 1 not required)". Ximenes himself certainly disliked quotations as clues — he felt there was little thrill in writing in the answer if one knew the quotation — but even he allowed that many solvers love to be sent back to their shelves to recover a forgotten passage. This is one reason why we still use quotations, occasionally direct, more often submerged. Some set books are still in use, and solvers seem to enjoy being reminded of authors as various as Don Marquis (of the archy and mehtabel poems), Stella Gibbons and the Starkadders of Cold Comfort Farm, and Rupert Brooke and his unofficial English rose.

Another reason is that a quotation, which can usually be guessed if not known, will often help solvers, particularly beginners, to get started with a seemingly recalcitrant puzzle. The one rule we try to observe is not to tangle the dictionary or quotations looking for something to drag in by the scruff of its neck. Worthwhile quotations are those which emerge naturally from the lumber-room of the compiler's mind.

One is also uneasily aware that if literary allusion is frowned upon, other areas of knowledge may similarly come to be regarded as unfair harassment of the solver. A civilised crossword must be a test of intelligence, reading and general knowledge as well as of logic and verbal ingenuity. Literal shifts, verbal deceptions and the like are a dull diet if unrelieved by wit, imagination and a little learning.

Analysis of The Times InterCity national finalists confirms the evidence of previous years, that the two most successful classes of solvers are the teachers and the computer specialists (three of each this year). But like the other 23 finalists they are all-rounders. Otherwise they would not have come through this far.

The national final takes place tomorrow, at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, London, at 2pm. Admission is free, and spectators can tackle the same puzzles as the finalists and other word games. Doors close quarter of an hour before the start.

The author is Crossword Editor of The Times.

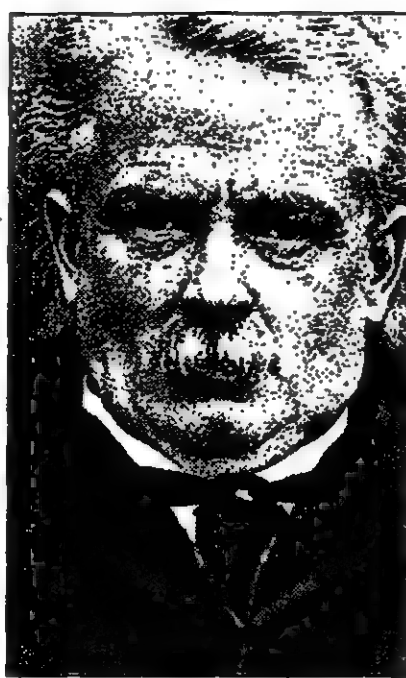
Trouble at the rumour mill

For better or worse, gossip is Westminster's way of life, recalls Robert Rhodes James

Shortly after I became an MP, a shrewd old Whip, John Stradling Thomas, said to me: "Take care. This place is like a village. Assume all walls have ears." I felt that this was a bit rough on the average English village, and I have certainly never lived in one with such a constellation of egotists, careerists, prima donnas and bitches, leavened by the decent and good-humoured majority, and blessedly none so obsessed by its dentures.

Most politicians enjoy gossip about other politicians, and particularly if it is to their disadvantage. Much of it turns out to be quite untrue. Once Michael Alison, a political saint if ever there was one and an old friend, consoled me about my terminal cancer. When I asked him in amazement where he had heard this nonsense, he replied, "One of the Whips". I then discovered that a lot of colleagues were going around feeling sorry for me (and, no doubt, furtively looking up my majority), and a friendly lobby correspondent asked me openly if it was true.

This particular rumour was not malignant: I had been mildly unwell with a dermatological complaint which made much of my hair fall out: within a few months it had grown back again to its original colour. Someone had assumed that I was receiving chemotherapy; from this it was a short step to writing me off. This may have been why, when I asked for ten days away to attend a special meeting on the 75th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings in Turkey, I was given permission with alacrity, as part of the "we must be especially kind to Robert" movement that was sweeping the Palace of Westminster. I wondered at the time why everyone was being so nice to me. When it



Famous affairs: Lloyd George and his secretary Frances Stevenson (left), Bob Boothby and Dorothy Macmillan. Fellow politicians knew, though not the public

became blatantly obvious that I was in rude health and with a reasonably full head of hair, normal hostilities were resumed. But some at least of the Westminster rumour machine is deliberate malice, as in the whispering campaign in the late 1930s, originating in the Tory Whip's office, against Churchill's drinking. Duff Cooper's drinking and womanising, Eden's unbalanced temperament, Macmillan being cuckolded by Boothby, and any other alleged misdemeanours and character deficiencies of anyone who dared to question the infallibility of Chamberlain's government. A taste of this poison can be had from James Stuart's autobiography, although ironically Stuart's own private life was somewhat strenuous. The atmosphere is perfectly caught in the complete, and as yet unpublished, diaries of "Chips" Channon, who unashamedly adored political gossip, and seemed not to know that there was a good deal about him.

But in those days character assassination was limited to the Westminster square mile. Loyal Liberals in the country had no knowledge of Asquith's heavy drinking, nor of Lloyd George's relationship with his secretary, although the former was often all too obvious to MPs and political correspondents: he was not called "Squiffy" for nothing, and nor was the Commons nickname of "the Goat" at all inappropriate for Lloyd George. Until long after her death, the public knew nothing of Lady Dorothy Macmillan's love for Boothby, and similarly the long affair between Philip Noel-Baker — an egregious hypocrite if ever there was one — and Megan Lloyd George was not public knowledge. Although a lot of people knew, the press remained silent, perhaps because some of the press barons themselves had cupboards rattling with skeletons.

Even in these much less inhibited days, serious political correspondents and editors are cautious about believing the Westminster rumour-mill, and rightly so. As in my case, a rumour can buzz around the place with alarming speed, and then turn out to be wholly false. At the time of the Profumo scandal, some of these were amazing, and there were so many that it was impossible to keep track of them; but at that time the Conservative party and the press seemed to have had a collective nervous breakdown, and there was a strong tendency to believe everything because the truth itself was so incredible. I was highly sceptical of most of the stories, not least because the abominable George Wigg was hard at work fanning the flames and chucking on gallons of petrol to boot.

The rumours seemed to be on a par with the whispering campaign in the Thirties, which probably also originated in the Chamberlain camp, to the effect that Brendan Bracken, Churchill's doughty and — with Boothby virtually sole supporter — his illegitimate son, which explained everything.

Churchill's wife was highly indignant; but Churchill and Bracken laughed it off, and the latter implicitly refused to deny this absurd canard. The libel damages if the claim had been published would have been sensational for the times.

This fear is undoubtedly an inhibiting one today, although there are still journalists and editors who consider that politicians' private lives are not fair game, and that revelations about them are certainly not in the public interest. Details about what a popular and respected cabinet minister did when she was 19 certainly are not; nor, in my view, are comments about Cecil Parkinson's problems, although in this case it was the lady concerned who went pub-



lic. But while it is diverting for historians to chortle over Di-anel's rake's progress in his youth and early career, Gladstone's mysterious and ambiguous night prowlings to rescue prostitutes, Franklin Roosevelt's infidelity and John Kennedy's extra-presidential activities, did they really matter? And would it really have been "in the public interest" to have blazoned these cases abroad, possibly destroying these men politically? In every case it certainly would not. I still wish that Margaret Thatcher had adamantly refused to accept Cecil Parkinson's resignation, and applaud the prime minister's refusal to permit the hounding of David Mellor to end his ministerial career.

But Commons gossip can also be benign, even helpful. On one occasion I learnt quite fortuitously in a chat with a Labour friend that the widow of one of his ex-colleagues was in dire financial straits but too proud to ask for assistance. My friend did not know that there is a fund to help people in her position, and I knew the MP responsible for it. I had a word with him, and action was taken.

Again, it was Commons gossip that tipped me off to how Sir Eric Heffer really was — alas, in his case it was only too true — and his friends were asked to

ratify round, which they did. Those Commons gossip is far from invariably malicious. Kind deeds of friendship or family tragedies are mentioned, as are outstanding speeches or the conduct of an obscure minister in an obscure committee; the unfair sackings of a popular minister can be censured (as happened very notably in the cases of George Young and Alastair Goodlad) and this may be picked up by listening Whips. The Commons has an extraordinary capacity to be both very cruel and immensely kind to its Members. Good political gossip at lunch or in Annie's Bar is about the only feature of parliamentary life that I shall miss.

But I never liked, or participated in, personal gossip, with the result that every alleged scandal took me by surprise. Although I was quite close to Cecil Parkinson, who had wanted me to be his parliamentary private secretary, I had never heard of Sara Keays, let alone set eyes on her. When the storm broke I was dumbfounded. "Oh," one of the Commons secretaries told me, "everyone knew". I would not have been a very good PPS.

Sir Robert Rhodes James was Conservative MP for Cambridge, 1976-92.



...and moreover PHILIP HOWARD

Cricket is the archetypal English game, and probably the most arcane recreation yet invented, making a sport out of systematic boredom. Chess surpasses it for complexity and subtlety. Real tennis and croquet and some forms of polo almost rival it for skill. Americans find it so absurd that they will at once deny a book publication in the United States.

Because it is so old and such a peculiar element in our national idiosyncrasy, cricket has passed into our national idiom, with idioms and phrases that often go slightly wrong, adding to the gaiety of nations. Brian Johnston, known as "Johnners", whose silly-ass commentaries on Test Match Special deprive Radio 3 listeners of Mozart or Schönberg, is a wizz at euphemology and fast balls. During the Lord's Test between England and New Zealand in 1969, the Kiwi batsman Glenn Turner was struck in the groin by a very fast delivery, and collapsed. As the television cameras focused on the writhing figure, Johnston described the accident as circumspectly as he could. Eventually there was relief when Turner picked up his bat and returned to the wicket to take the last ball of the over. "Turner looks a bit shaky and unsteady," announced Johnners. "But I think he's going to bat on... One ball left."

During the Test match between England and the West Indies at the Oval in 1976,

Michael Holding was bowling to Peter Willey. Johnston set the scene with a memorable phrase: "The bowler's Holding, the batsman's Willey."

English is thick with cricketing allusions, often wrong. The highest scoring stroke, leaving out of account overthrows by overthrows, is six, when the batsman strikes the ball over the boundary full pitch. Hence the idiom to hit something for six. In cricket, this is a pleasing thing to do, one of the great feelings in the world. In general discourse, however, the meaning has been reversed, and it means a severe and unpleasant blow. "The loss of my wife hit me for six: it took me months to recover."

A sticky wicket is another instance of abused cricketing jargon, because it is obsolete. If rain wets the wicket, and it is in the process of drying out in the hot sun, the result used to be a sticky wicket on which the ball would turn sharply and come through at varying heights and speeds. On such a wicket, great spin bowlers such as Grimsitt and O'Reilly were almost unplayable. Hence to bat on a sticky wicket is to contend with what the prime minister would call "inconsiderable difficulties". The phrase is still widely used by populist rhetoricians. "It must be clearly understood that Mr Major was batting on a very sticky wicket at Maastrecht." But nowadays, when it rains on big grounds, the wicket is covered, so they don't become sticky any more.

On or off one's own bat means on one's own independently, without help or assistance. This is a tautology. How could a batsman score runs off anyone's bat than his own, pray? Straining like greyhounds in the slips is not a reference to the close-catching fielders. "It is an ancient Mariner, and he stoppeth one in three" does not refer to a lousy wicket-keeper.

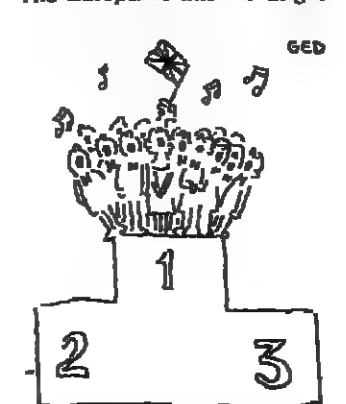
The funniest and most romantic cricketing metaphor, which causes Americans to fall about with giggles, is the old phrase "It's not cricket". This implies that cricket is not like other games, but prizes chivalry and fair play towards opponents. "Do we play like English gentlemen (Cheltenham ladies), or do we play to win?" In cricket, the answer was supposed to be the former. Batsmen walked when they knew they had touched the ball, without waiting for the umpire to give them out. A fielder who caught the ball half-volley would signal not out. Nobody would argue with an umpire, even when he was palpably mistaken.

This phrase is quite out of date, if it was ever actually a description of how cricketers behaved. Nobody walks, everybody scowls in rage and disbelief at the umpire. Everyone appeals, even when it is clearly not out, to intimidate the umpires. Fielders sledge the batsman, he taunts him with obscenities to upset his concentration. But cricketing metaphors live, as inaccurate as they have always been.

Gold mine

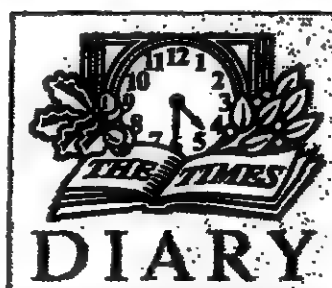
WE MAY NOT dominate the nostrum in Barcelona over the next two weeks, but Britain seems already to have won several Olympic medals for its musical accompaniment to the Games. As the Olympic flame is carried into the Barcelona stadium tonight, the soft Spanish air will be sweetened by the tones of Pro Musica, an all-British choir group, as well as the official theme tune for the Games, by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The amateur choir was flown to Barcelona in February to spend two days in a recording studio under the scrutiny of José Carreras, who insisted that only an English choir was good enough. "The Europeans like the English



choral sound, which is considered to be the most pure and accurate. We were proud to be there," says singer Stanley Cohen. "But I must say the Olympic hymn is a little nondescript, although we did sing part of it in Catalan."

In addition to the hymn, which was written by an obscure Greek composer for the 1896 Athens Olympics, the London-based choir has also recorded the European



DIARY

Beethoven's Ode to Joy. Yet despite having their work heard by an estimated 3.5 billion people the choir must watch the Games from an armchair at home, as none of the singing at tonight's ceremony is live. Even Lloyd Webber's Amigos Para Siempre (Friends for Life), will emanate from a CD player in the bowels of the stadium. But the choir will, at least, avoid the embarrassment of Carreras and the other soloists — who include Plácido Domingo, Teresa Berganza and Montserrat Caballé — who will be miming a medley of arias on stage.

Most literary works take months to produce, but a band of enthusiastic young publishers will today attempt to create a book in a day. They will design and typeset a collection of short stories from, among others, Ben Okri, Wendy Cope and Stephen Fry and a new Inspector Morse tale specially written by Colin Dexter for the volume, which is being put together at a Dillons bookstore in London. The book will be bled down to Wiltshire and printed in a record eight hours — more or less the time it takes to produce The Times every day. Predictably entitled A Book in a Day, the tome will be auctioned next month for the Oxford literary appeal.

Anon, anon

AT LAST, a skeleton has been discovered in John Smith's sideboard. It is by no means resignation material, nor even sufficient to prompt Panorama to revive its programme on his life, which was dropped because researchers found so little of interest.

But for the record, here is the racist story anyone has been able to dredge up on the somber and serious new Labour leader, courtesy of Neil MacCormick, now regius professor of public law at Edinburgh University.

As young men at Glasgow University, Smith and MacCormick did the unthinkable after a debate: they relieved themselves against the nearest wall. Alas the pair were caught in the act by the long arm of the law. "What's yer name laddie?" the putative leader was asked. "John Smith," he replied. "Aye," said the disbelieving bobby, "and I wrote the collected works of William Shakespeare."

Tables turned

PEACE and harmony within the erudite ranks of Mensa have been jeopardised by a proposal that all mail should be sent out under plain cover, without the society's logo. A resolution at next month's annual meeting says that members living in flats or communal areas are anxious that neighbours titter when they see envelopes bearing a Mensa postmark.

The public image of a Mensa member is a bearded computer science-fiction buff aged between 30 and 35 who plays chess and Scrabble and does not like pubs," says one Mensa man. "Until we can rid ourselves of that, we feel that receiving embazoned letters is tantamount to an invasion of privacy."

Sir Clive Sinclair, chairman of

the society for 12 years, expects little support for the motion. "Most members are quite happy to let the world know they belong to the organisation, which is, after all internationally respected," he says.

With John Arlott's Alderney house already on the market, part of his extensive cricket collection is going under the hammer at Christie's later in the year. Among the most sought-after items are a complete collection of Wisden, dating from the first edition in 1864 to the present day. Each one bears Arlott's ownership signature, and the set is expected to fetch more than £20,000. Fans of Arlott himself can bid for the great man's press card, covering his distinguished service with The Guardian, and the nameplate from the door to his office at home.

The best policy

DEMOCRACY is not a word often whispered in the corridors of Conservative Central Office, but this week staff received a questionnaire from on high asking for their honest views about the organisation.

Fortunately, anonymity is guaranteed for all respondents to the 70 questions. Most of the staff appear to have disregarded a personal letter from Sir Norman Fowler, the party chairman, urging them to take the missive seriously. Several ribald responses are already in circulation to the question: "Are you proud to work for Conservative Central Office?" Employees expecting to lose their jobs in the latest economy drive.

Another economy reader: "Does CCO look ahead at our competitors in antiquated problems and opportunities?" This can't mean the sort of thing someone might leak to Kelvin MacKenzie.



SMITH FORGES HIS TOOLS

The first test for John Smith's new shadow team will be whether it can become an effective Opposition. Whether Labour is a plausible government-in-waiting will arise later in the Parliament. Mr Smith himself has made a strong start as Opposition leader. He has shown a willingness to change his party, particularly its relations with the unions. The shadow cabinet elected on Thursday and allocated responsibilities yesterday is, with a few notable exceptions, the best available to Mr Smith.

The 13 years that Labour has been out of office has had an effect. Mr Smith is the sole member of his 20-strong team with cabinet experience. Only four of the rest were even junior ministers or whips in the last Labour government. Half the team were not even in the Commons. Few have any inside knowledge of Whitehall. Yet inexperience is not a disadvantage if the alternative is retaining old staggers well past their best, as Harold Wilson did when he included tired veterans of the Attlee government in his first government in 1964.

One of the sadder results of the Labour upheavals of the 1980s was not only that talented figures departed for the SDP, but that many potential talents were discouraged from offering themselves as parliamentary candidates by the turmoil in constituency parties. Some have even ended up in the House of Lords — a team at least comparable with the frontbench in the Commons.

The shadow cabinet thus remains an uneven team. All members other than John Prescott at transport have been reshuffled. At the top are energetic spokesmen willing to think originally, such as Gordon Brown (Treasury), Tony Blair (home affairs) and Jack Straw (local government and housing). The best entertainment is offered by the matching of Robin Cook against Michael Heseltine at trade and industry.

But Jack Cunningham will have to

sharpen his performance if he is to worry Douglas Hurd, and there are too many dull worthies such as Tom Clarke at Scotland and David Clark at defence. Health, employment and education, which require fresh Labour thinking, will be shadowed by David Blunkett, Frank Dobson and Ann Taylor respectively. They have not shown themselves ready in the past to challenge vested party interests. They are unlikely to disturb the sleep of the ministers whom they are shadowing.

Mr Smith has made too much of the presence of five women in his top team against the two in John Major's cabinet. More significant has been his willingness to put most of them into mainstream portfolios rather than the second rank jobs they previously occupied.

The new team has two immediate tasks. The first, generally absent in the three months since the election, is the traditional opposition role of challenging ministers. Labour has to be careful both over the Maastricht treaty and the economy to avoid taking positions which might be attractive in the short term, such as supporting devaluation, but which could be politically damaging in the long term. But the first duty of a shadow spokesman is to force ministers to justify their positions.

The longer-term task for Mr Smith's team is to review policy. There is no need for premature policy commitments, but Labour spokesmen have to avoid the trap of becoming the captives of union and other producer interest groups. That is not recognised by all of Mr Smith's new team. The real test for the shadow cabinet is whether in two years' time they are generally seen as leading the public debate, rather than lagging behind muttering about the iniquities of Tory policies. Only then will Labour start to be regarded as a credible alternative government.

IGNITING OLYMPIC IDEALS

When the torch is carried into the stadium above Barcelona this morning to light the Olympic flame, it will rekindle one of the most potent modern myths. For the next fortnight more than 10,000 of the best athletes in the world from 172 countries, will run, jump and perform more sophisticated feats in 28 sports of a variety to bamboozle even Hercules, the legendary founder of the Games — good at impossible labours, Hercules would surely have floundered at synchronised swimming. The athletes will be accompanied by 10,000 official camp followers, and will be watched by 3,500 million on television.

There has always been a discrepancy between the rhetoric of the Olympic Games and their reality. For most of this century they were nominally strictly amateur, though in the West athletes had sporting university scholarships that required nothing more academic than circuit training, and in the Soviet empire they were given commissions in the armed services.

The Games have always been meant to find the fastest and strongest on a level playing field; in the ancient Games the judges had canes to beat runners who tried to get an unfair advantage by starting early, while in the modern Games athletes are often suspected of using drugs to gain a more surreptitious advantage.

The modern Games were reinvented by de Coubertin to promote international good will. The president of Barcelona's Olympic organising committee, Pasquale Maragall, declared yesterday that this XXVth Olympic bid more than any of its predecessors had become a universal fiesta of brotherhood between nations. But in practice, sadly, the Olympics can breed chauvinism.

The most poisonous shot of nationalism was injected into the Olympics at the Nazi Games in Berlin in 1936. With his massed swastikas and banners and torches, Hitler intended them to be a triumphalist celebra-

tion of Aryan supremacy. His plan was foiled by Jesse Owens, the black American sprinter and long-jumper, who won the four best gold medals. Hitler dropped his plan of appearing in public with the winners, and Goebbels sour-graped the American team as "black mercenaries".

Regrettable vestiges of those Nazi rallies have stuck to the Olympics. They need to be improved by complete denationalisation: the ending of the parades with national flags, the flag-raising ceremonies, the interminable national anthems to hail the winners. It would help if television coverage was less obsessed with the achievement of British competitors coming home 17th, more with that of the winners from wherever they came. This year the athletes from the old Soviet Union and Yugoslavia are marching with the Olympic flag, and getting their medals to the Olympic anthem, Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*. In future, so far as there have to be flags and brass bands, they should all be Olympic, not nationalistic.

Simplification would also improve the Olympics. These Games are already so packed with events and competitors that they are close to gridlock. All team sports except relay races should be dropped, particularly as in these sports the Olympic champions are never really the world champions, who are found in more suitable arenas. All "sports" that need judges to award points for technical merit and artistic impression should be abandoned too, because such judging is subjective and by its nature cannot produce a real winner. Sports with horses, yachts and other complex equipment should go, because they measure the depth of a competitor's purse and the ingenuity of his equipment-maker as much as his own skill.

The Games were founded for the pursuit of individual excellence rather than for national glory. They can be enjoyed even as they are; but will be the more enjoyable, when they are closer to their ideal.

JUDGES GALORE

An American lady mugged in a shopping mall is suing the owner of the premises for a million dollars, for failing to prevent the attack. Everybody knows that there are fortunes to be made in America by inventing new ways of taking fellow citizens to the legal cleaners. They will presumably only stop when the entire nation is divided into just four categories: defendants, plaintiffs, lawyers — or actors, playing the other three categories in television courtroom dramas.

A scheme to encourage the identical trend in Britain has just been put to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, by the new Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor. He does not know that that is what it is, of course. He thinks he is simply asking for more judges, for the straightforward reason that waiting lists for civil actions in the High Court are long and growing longer. In the Queen's Bench Division last year, the average time between the issuing of a writ and the starting of a trial was 157 weeks. Similarly the London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association wants to attack long waiting lists by penalising any lawyer who adds to the delay, for instance by not being ready when the case is listed for a hearing.

Justice delayed is justice denied is the worthy sentiment equally of Lord Taylor and the 1,200 members of the association, which has sent a copy of its report to Lord Mackay. Justice made too quick and easy only encourages unnecessary legal disputes, ought to be the Lord Chancellor's robust reply. We are an increasingly litigious nation, he should say, and ought to be taught better ways of settling (or otherwise coming to terms with) our differences, before mugged ladies start suing shopping-mall owners all over Britain too.

Just as new roads are as likely to increase traffic congestion as to cure it, so congestion in the courts is a bottle-neck it may not be too wise to remove. Just as there is no ceiling on potential national expenditure on health, so there is no theoretical upper limit to the number of civil legal actions which could be brought at any one time. A dog barks at night? Sue the owner. A wrong number? Sue the caller. A rough pavement wears away? Sue the council. The sun is too hot? Sue the makers of CFC.

The number of possible legal actions will be kept to a manageable level either by expense (a limitation which the burgeoning legal aid scheme, and now even more burgeoning private legal insurance, are designed to remove); or by delay (which the Lord Chief Justice and the Bar wants to end by having more courts and judges); or by the British keeping hold of their common sense (a diminishing prospect); or, and this is what the Lord Chief Justice and the London barristers ought to be telling the Lord Chancellor, by a serious investment in alternative dispute resolution.

ADR is wallet-friendly to the public, but therefore not to the legal fraternity. It does not require more High Court judges, each costing £87,620 a year. For every single case waiting 157 weeks for a hearing at the High Court, there ought to be on offer an alternative, informal, cheap, quick ADR solution. A bit of mediation here, a spot of arbitration there, a touch of conciliation all round, and countless clients will walk away with their grievances satisfied (and more than that, satisfied with the speed, and with their low legal costs). Alternative dispute resolution is the coming thing. Appointing more judges can only spoil it.

Mellor: the right to know and the right to stay in office

From Mr Joe Ashton, MP for Bassetlaw (Labour)

Sir, As might be expected from a Press Complaints Commission which includes tabloid editors, it has now stated at its emergency meeting over the David Mellor affair (report, July 23) that the public has the right to be informed about the private behaviour of politicians if it affects the conduct of public business.

Was it therefore in the public interest for other tabloid editors to pay an "electronics expert" who had bugged a bedroom then sold the tapes and photographs of it?

Have we now reached the stage where it is easier for those who acquire other people's damaging personal secrets to sell them to the tabloids rather than possibly risk jail over blackmail?

The statement amounts to a simple approval of the tabloids' use of paid informers, as, for example, did the KGB in Moscow or the Stasi in East Germany. Like them, the tabloids use such information to destroy lives without trial, defence or jury.

It endorses the practice of allowing a picket line of doorknocking journalists outside a house, to barricade relatives and children and cause them enormous distress, all in the interests of "a good story". In these terms, the dilemma that the freedom of the press is paramount means that the freedom of the individual is then worthless.

If the cabinet does not now restore the rights of the individual against the press barons and their harassment of famous names then we might just as well accept that the press is more powerful than Parliament and close the latter down.

Here is one Labour MP who will back David Mellor and John Major all the way on the need for legislation to protect us from tabloid tyranny.

Yours etc.,

JOE ASHTON (Member, Select Committee on National Heritage, House of Commons)

From Lord Jakobovits

Sir, It may be debatable whether the punishment of life-long public obloquy and private embarrassment fits the crime of a serious but passing aberration by men holding high office. Some may even wonder whether national leaders should be expected to live more exemplar lives than "ordinary citizens" — though few will doubt that noblesse oblige, and extra privileges should be matched by extra duties.

However, what can hardly be questioned is that publicising such lapses by notables is definitely not in the public interest.

Such publicity can only cheapen all marriages by depressing the public regard for moral discipline. A single "affair" such as now besmirches our media — with titillating stories and salacious pictures — may help to bring many an otherwise stable marriage to grief: "If he can do it, why not we?"

The excuse of some editors that "the public interest" is served by publication compounds the evil — by blatant dishonesty, journalistic self-interest masquerading as the public interest (not to mention the devious methods whereby these stories are usually obtained and paid for).

"The right to know" is neither sacred nor absolute; sometimes eating of the tree of knowledge leads to death and corruption.

Yours sincerely,
JAKOBOVITS,
HOUSE OF LORDS.

Sorting out priorities for the decade of evangelism

From Mr L. J. G. Allen and others

Sir, Michael Latham ("Christians and targeted proselytism", July 20) is distressingly unclear as to the nature of salvation. He believes that Jesus carried our sins upon the cross, yet he writes: "I cannot possibly accept that salvation is uniquely restricted to Christians or achieved solely through Christianity..."

The confusion of his own doctrine is surely indicative of an evident belief that Christ's death is not imperative for our salvation from God's righteous judgment. Yet St Paul, the Jewish Christian, was adamant that all men are under God's condemnation because "all have sinned, and fall short of God's glory" (Romans iii, 23).

The preaching of the apostles was unwavering on the nature of salvation through Jesus' death, for Jews and gentiles: when addressing the Jewish religious leaders of their time Peter and John said: "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts iv, 12).

If the Christian message really is glorious what does that make us if we refuse to share the news of God's mercy, shown through Jesus' death on our behalf, on the cross?

"The first, second, third and fourth priority of the decade of evangelism" is not, as Michael Latham puts it, to fill the churches, but (Mark xvi, 15) to "go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation" — Jew and gentile alike.

Yours faithfully,
L. J. G. ALLEN
(Magdalene College, Cambridge),
R. J. R. PAICE
(Christ Church, Oxford),
R. A. R. WEEKES
(Peterhouse, Cambridge),
As from: Magdalene College, Cambridge.
July 20.

Road and rail markets

From the Director/Chief Executive of the British Road Federation

Sir, The assertion in your leader (July 22) that rail investment is more productive than road investment implies that the two are alternatives. This is rarely the case as they tend to serve different markets in different places and at different times.

Of the most urgently needed rail investment in this country the majority is in services to get commuters to the centres of major conurbations, primarily London.

Few, if any, road schemes could meet that need. Road schemes tend to be inter-urban improvements or bypasses, to get through traffic out of towns and villages, to improve access to the ports and to ensure that the motorways continue to have the capacity to carry the bulk of medium

and long-distance traffic. Even a dramatically improved rail system is unlikely to attract more than a small proportion of traffic from these roads. As the French have found with their TGV the far more likely source of any new traffic for the inter-city rail network will be from the internal air services.

A debate on whether public funds should be spent on road or rail investment only serves to obscure the real issue which is the need to modernise all forms of transport if industrial competitiveness is to be improved and the environment enhanced.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DIMENT,
Director and Chief Executive,
British Road Federation,
Pillar House,
194-202 Old Kent Road, SE1,
July 22.

Jeunes sans frontières

From Mr James M. H. Hayward

Sir, Your leader, "Jeunes sans frontières" (July 16), opens a secret of how a large proportion of Europe's young people spend their summer holidays. They, or should I say "we" (for I am one), enjoy travel, and we are not the lager louts who hijack the headlines.

The contribution to international understanding is immeasurable — how many of your readers have spent a week of their holiday in the abject poverty of central Morocco, followed by several days on the affluent Côte d'Azur? Or, visiting barren Finnish Lapland and after a testing, logistical exercise of connecting trains with ferries, arrived in the verdant Czech Tatras? InterRailers can, and do.

Our appreciation of the different societies in Europe and our perception of the political changes is better than that of most Europeans — on package holidays.

The cheapness of the InterRail ticket is the very essence of its popularity. In four years I have spent less on 16 weeks' holiday than some readers might on a single transatlantic flight. If the spirit of InterRail is destroyed by increasing prices and the breaking of the international agreement, students and young people embarking on careers will desert it in droves. They and Europe will be poorer for it.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES M. H. HAYWARD,
Olden Lodge, 37 Hill Road,
Cleveland, Avon.
July 16.

From Dr R. L. Marshall

Sir, You report today the view of the Press Complaints Commission that "the public has the right to be informed about the private behaviour of politicians if it affects the conduct of public business". I reluctantly support that view — however difficult the judgments involved, and however inevitable the abuses by the press, in putting it into effect.

Politicians seeking my support profess frequently their underlying moral values. I am inclined to take these into account in my choices: in general, because I am concerned about the quality of those who are to represent me and also for the relation of particular values to policies in the fields in which I am interested. If the behaviour of politicians contradicts their professed values, it is, I think, proper for me to know of that and to make of it the best judgment I can.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. MARSHALL,
Holly Cottage, 15 Beacon Road,
Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough,
Leicestershire.
July 23.

From the President of the Historic Houses Association

Sir, All those involved with the heritage were delighted when the prime minister created the new Department of National Heritage. After five days of savaging Mr Mellor for his alleged dalliance, isn't it time the tabloid press allowed him to get on with his job, for which he is still eminently suitable?

Yours faithfully,
SHELBURNE, President,
Historic Houses Association,
2 Chester Street, SW1,
July 24.

vided; His death on the cross proves God's love.

I am grateful that the Church not only began with Jewish believers but has always included Jews as well as people of other backgrounds. Furthermore, as the New Testament shows Jewish evangelism to be the Church's priority (Romans i, 16), leaving out the Jews from hearing the gospel must invite God's displeasure.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WEISSMAN
(UK Representative and Evangelist,
Christian Jew Foundation),
123 Grove Hill,
South Woodford, E18,
July 20.

From Mr G. B. Kelly

Sir, Mr Latham appears to overlook that the God to whom Jews and Muslims address their prayers is not the revealed God of the Christians. Christianity alone among religions affirms the triune God. Jews, Muslims and all others deny the divinity of Christ and the Holy Ghost.

Any Christian who, with wilful intent, fails to illuminate the blind lacks charity and, worse, sets his immortal soul on the road to perdition.

Yours sincerely,
G. B. KELLY,
36 Great Furlong,
Bishopstoke,
Teignmouth, Devon.
July 20.

From Mrs Jean McCormick

Sir, One wonders why on earth Christ was born a Jew and spent his life preaching to the Jews and exhorting his disciples to do likewise if Jews are to be excluded from twentieth-century proselytising.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN MCCORMICK,
17 River Green,
Hamble, Hampshire.
July 20.

Royal Tournament

From Mrs Zoe Lee

Sir, I have paid my annual visit to the Royal Tournament. As in previous years, it is the finest spectacle to be seen anywhere. In addition, the personnel involved, both performing and manning the stalls, exhibits, activities for children, guiding the lost, answering queries, cannot be equalled.

Our armed services are our pride, our guardians, and visible internationally as proof of this country's worth. That they are going to be reduced and kept short of money is just stupid.

Yours truly,
ZOE LEE,
5 Hertswood Court,
Hillside Gardens,
Barnet, Hertfordshire.
July 17.

From Mr K. G. Edmonds

Sir, Was it really necessary, on TV, to show chocolate-box toy soldiers and chorus nymphs at a Royal Tournament? Isn't it time these inanities were excluded from the tournament, and tattoos, until some measure of display associated with some form of military expertise can be presented?

Yours horrified,
K. G. EDMONDS,
Kensington, London Road North,
Poynton, Cheshire.
July 18.

Weekend Money letters, page 26

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Carrington peace mission failure

From Miss Vivian Grisogono

Sir, Lord Carrington's failures to secure peace in the two ravaged republics of former Yugoslavia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, are now so numerous that everyone seems to have lost count. What is the point of him carrying on?

He has not only failed to secure any kind of ceasefire. He has also failed to obtain safe passage for humanitarian relief, whether of medicines or supplies, into beleaguered regions, or of wounded people or civilians out of them.

Since the UN-negotiated "cease-fire" in January, occupied areas of Croatia have visibly remained in Serbian hands. The ruins of Vukovar, shamefully, have become a tourist site for Serbian visitors.

Lord Carrington's greatest failure has been his inability to identify clearly who the aggressor forces are, and the extent to which they must be blamed for the war in former Yugoslavia. His constant reiteration, in all circumstances, that blame must be apportioned to all sides in some measure greatly undermines his credibility in a situation of blatant invasion and unlimited destruction by heavily armed and carefully prepared Yugoslav belligerents.

Is it reasonable to expect the Bosnians, defending their internationally recognised territory, to have confidence in the fairness of his negotiations?

It is surely time to replace Lord Carrington's peace forum with a peace-making body of greater force, which could command greater respect from the war-makers and their victims.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIAN GRISOGONO
(Croatian Peace Forum),
62 Lulworth Avenue,
Hounslow, Middlesex.
July 21.

From Miss Nora Beloff

Sir, The Times (leader, July 21) should think again before endorsing the British government's rejection of the French initiative for winding up the Carrington mission in favour of a bolder initiative. This would involve enabling the French and Russians to put pressure on the Serbs to draw back from non-Serb territories which they have occupied, but only on condition that the Germans and Austrians agreed to restrain the Croats and Muslims from trying to impose their rule on unwilling Serb communities.

Lord Carrington started late last year wisely with the proposition that the outside world should recognise the independence of the component parts of Yugoslavia only after agreement had been reached safeguarding the Serb minorities. He allowed himself to be overruled by the Germans, who insisted on endorsing unilateral declarations of independence, which were a certain prescription for civil war.

Further, confronting a Bosnian claim for independence, Carrington knew that the Serb minority in Bosnia would no more accept subjugation to a Muslim-Croat majority than would the Catholics of Northern Ireland (also one third of their province's population) willingly submit to Stormont rule. Carrington sensibly tried — and thought he had succeeded — in averting catastrophe by proposing a system of "cantonalisation", allowing the separate communities to manage their own affairs.

Yet after President Izetbegovic went on Sarajevo radio (March 29) confessing that he had only pretended to agree in order to win international recognition, Carrington endorsed the Western policy of imposing sanctions exclusively on Serbs and laying all the blame on Serb aggression.

Sincerely,
NORA BELOFF,
11 Belsize Road, NW6,
July 21.

Coping with hoods

From Mr H. W. Brown

Sir, After failing for many years to keep my hood in place (letters, July 20, 21) I have found the solution: matching strips of black Velcro on gown and hood. When the gown is worn without the hood the panels look slightly mysterious (some forlorn honour, perhaps?) but not obtrusive.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN BROWN,
27 Victoria Road, Oxford.

Putting her back into it

From Mr A. F. Raikes

Sir, The modern caddy's role is now much more as a provider of psychological and intellectual support (cardgames, pin placements, club selection and general encouragement) than as a provider of mere carrying power (Mr John Dove's letter, July 22).

Why therefore, instead of buying Ms Sunesson a trolley (the use of which is said by many to be itself a cause of back problems), should not Mr Faldo employ a second caddy to carry his bag, leaving Ms Sunesson free to concentrate exclusively on her advisory duties?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY RAIKES,
Tower Mill, Mark Cross,
Nr Crowborough, East Sussex.
July 23.

OBITUARIES

ROSEMARY SUTCLIFF

Rosemary Sutcliff, OBE, FRSL, historical novelist and author of many books for children, died on July 23 aged 71. She was born at West Clandon, Surrey, on December 14, 1920.

IN THE decade following the second world war a generation of writers and illustrators came to the fore who brought new life to the making of children's books. Rosemary Sutcliff is among the greatest of these, despite, or perhaps because of, her concentration on a fairly narrow field of historical writing. Novels such as *Simon*, set in the Civil War, the Elizabethan *Brother Dusty-Foot* and the Bronze Age *Warrior Scalet* were the result of meticulous research and designed to appeal to children and adults alike. She was particularly at home in the period when the Romans were leaving Britain to the depredations of the Saxons and the Vikings, the Sea Wolves, as she called them.

Rosemary Sutcliff was born into a well-to-do family (her father, George Ernest Sutcliff, rose to become Commander of Convoys during the war) but the itinerant childhood which this entailed was further complicated by early illness. At the age of two and a half she contracted Still's disease, and the unstoppable progress of this painful and debilitating form of juvenile arthritis necessarily dominated her growth to maturity. Over the years she travelled with her parents from dockyard town to dockyard town and, although she attended schools intermittently, much of her education took place at home or during spells in hospital.

These early years were recalled by her in her typically frank but witty memoir *Blue Remembered Hills* (1983) where she notes that "the only subject I was any good at was art" — which resulted in her going, at the age of 14, to the Bideford School of Art, where she took a full three-year course with considerable success. Her parents, however, dissuaded her from attempting large-scale painting, and after she had gained her diploma she began to develop a career as a miniature painter and was a lifelong member of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters.

Rosemary Sutcliff's mother — whose presence was recognised by her daughter as being profoundly influential — had also encouraged her to a love of reading, not least



through her own devotion to storytelling and reading aloud. Kipling was a particular favourite and, during the war years, Rosemary Sutcliff began to turn her attention to writing as an even more tractable occupation than miniature painting. She experimented with a Kipling-esque epic called "Wild Sunrise" which she later said, with a sigh of relief, "sank without trace". Nevertheless, she persevered with further ideas for stories set in the past and eventually, at the request of the children's department of Oxford University Press, she prepared a manuscript of *The Chronicles of Robin Hood* which was published, alongside her first story, *The Queen Elizabeth Story*, in 1950.

There is little in these early works

that was to suggest the breakthrough that came in 1953 with *Simon*, with its Civil War setting, and in 1954 with *Eagle of the Ninth*, a tale of the Romans in Britain, which was directly inspired by *Puck of Pook's Hill*. In these two books her gift for imagining herself back into an historical period came to maturity and revealed her ability to give graphic life to a past age and to recognise the constant dilemmas posed by the need to make responsible decisions. Families divide but conscience must be followed; loyalties exact hard penalties.

Eagle of the Ninth brought Rosemary Sutcliff national fame — partly through a highly successful serialisation on BBC Radio's *Children's Hour* (she once heard a child making a sand-castle say "I'm build-

ing a temple to Mithras"). More importantly though, it led her to a sequence of powerful novels in which she refined her skill at integrating the story of an individual into an intensely imagined historical setting. Several of these novels are linked through subtly suggested family connections, and the use of a "dolphin ring" (eg *The Silver Branch*, 1957; *The Lantern Bearers*, 1959; and *Dawn Wind*, 1961) and these culminated in her Arthurian novel, published for adults, *Sword at Sunset* (1963).

Other stories stand to one side of this sequence, either through being set in a different period, such as *The Shield Ring* (1956) an heroic tale of Vikings defending their Lake District redoubt against the Normans, or

through the psychological force of the story, as in what many regard as her masterpiece *The Mark of the Horse Lord* (1965). This book like several of its predecessors gained a further dimension through the strong and closely integrated illustrations of Charles Keeping.

Rosemary Sutcliff was from the first insistent upon the importance of research into facts and into past modes of thought as a foundation for her historical novels and this gave rise to her writing some evocative books of historical description, such as *Houses and History* (1960) and some versions of myth, such as *Beowulf* (1961). She also wrote several other novels for adults and a group of short, individually-published tales for young readers. Almost all this extensive output was distinguished by a vigour of writing and a detailed apprehension of the landscape of the past which showed her triumphant success in overcoming the crippling physical disabilities that had been with her since childhood. The perseverance, balance, and sanguine humour exhibited by many of her heroes were hers as well. She was an inspiring and most companionable spirit.

She did not believe in shielding children from sad or dreadful happenings but felt a responsibility to point out a path, a right way of doing things and a hope for the future, the triumph of civilisation against barbarism. Children, she believed, were capable of understanding intuitively rather than literally and would come back eventually to what they did not understand the first time.

The extent and depth of her research can be judged from the bibliography for *The Lantern Bearers* which lists 30 books with Sir Arthur Bryant and Sir Mortimer Wheeler rubbing shoulders with Gildas and Nennius and books on Judaea, Celtic Christianity and monasticism. Denied by her arthritic condition most domestic pleasures she worked constantly from mid-morning until midnight on her writing, sometimes completing three books a year.

Rosemary Sutcliff's achievements did not go unrecognised. She gained a number of awards for her children's books, including, in 1960, the Library Association's Carnegie Medal for *The Lantern Bearers*. She was appointed OBE in 1975 and was a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

MAXINE AUDLEY

Maxine Audley, actress, died on July 23 aged 69. She was born in London on April 29, 1923.

MAXINE Audley was a classical actress in the grand manner whose career peaked at Stratford and the Old Vic in the late 1940s and early 1950s. In films, on television and on radio, however, she continued to be a familiar performer, her elegant poise and thrilling, deep voice epitomising glamour and sophistication or simply mink-smooth sex-appeal. She had a finely sculptured beauty which, as she grew older, enabled her to graduate from ingénue roles to glamorous wicked queens, seductresses and vamps. Although theatre was her greatest love she appeared frequently in recent years in television series as *Lovejoy*, *Bergerac* and *Casualty* and was Mrs Marlow in the award-winning *Prime Suspect*. In the immediate post-war period she worked frequently on tours with Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh, who were her friends.

Maxine Audley was educated at Westonslir and then drama schools in London and New York. She made her stage debut at the Open Air Theatre in Regents Park on July 27, 1940, walking on in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and then after two years in regional repertory companies returned to the Park and that play as *Hippolyta* for the 1942 season, where she also played *Nerissa* in *The Merchant of Venice*.

War-time troop tours then occupied her until 1945, when she first joined an Old Vic tour as *Raine* in *Arms and the Man*. Two more years in repertory at Salisbury and Nottingham followed, before she made her Stratford debut in 1949 as *Emilia* in *Othello*. Her long association with the Old Vic started in 1951 when they invited her to join them in their double season at the St James's of *Antony & Cleopatra* and *Caesar* and *Cleopatra*.

It was in both of which she played Charmian, a role which then took her with that company to Broadway in 1952.

The following year she joined the Bristol Old Vic for a further repertory season and then, after a handful of rather brief London runs often in continental pieces, she re-joined the Old Vics for their 1955 season at Stratford, playing *Olivia* in *Twelfth Night*. Lady Macduff in *Macbeth* and *Tamora*, the archetypal "wicked queen" in *Titus Andronicus*. This last role took her then on a long world tour during which she was much praised, not only for her work on stage but also for her ability backstage to control an increasingly temperamental and unreasonably temperamental and unstable Vivien Leigh.

1958 found her back in the West End for a thriller, *Speakings of Murder*, and after two boulevard comedies she re-joined the Old Vic in the 1960-61 season for *Lady Macbeth* and *Constance* in *King John*. A year later she joined the brand new Royal Shakespeare Company at the Aldwych for Christopher Fry's *Curtmantle*, staying with the RSC for *Helen in Troilus* and *Cressida*.

In a comparatively rare appearance in a new play, she then appeared as Maggie in *The Formation Dancers* before playing opposite Nigel Patrick in the 1965 revival of *Coward's Private Laughter*. From the 1970s most of her major performances were seen away from central London: a *Blanche du Bois* at Leeds in 1971, *Flora Goforth* in another Tennessee Williams, *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Any More* at Watford in 1974, and Mrs Marlow in *Way of the World* at Guildford in 1975. Her many films included *The Barrets of Wimpole Street* (1956), *A King in New York* (1957) and *House of Cards* (1968).

A keen photographer and accomplished player of the spinet, Maxine Audley was married four times.



July 25 ON THIS DAY 1970

Sir Frederick Ashton's wide-ranging achievements in the field of ballet were splendidly celebrated at this "choreographic retrospective". Ashton died in 1988.

John Percival
A splendid night of ballet treasures

Royal Opera House
Ashton's Gala

When a man has done as much as Frederick Ashton, what on earth do you choose to sum up his achievement? The Royal Ballet's solution at last night's Covent Garden gala was simply to put on the most splendid series of lectures-demonstrations that can ever have been given. Robert Helpmann was the uniquely-qualified expositor of Sir Fred's life and career. Starting at the champagne-decked table from *A Wedding Bouquet*, and making his second half entry in the ballroom from *Les Sirènes*, Helpmann was in charge throughout.

First he had giant photo projections to summon up nostalgia: Ashton as an innocent-looking child and pictures of his earliest works. Then came danced extracts from something like half of his more than 80 ballets.

What treasures had been unearthed for the occasion? It was almost unbearably poignant to see, miraculously resurrected for this occasion by the memories of old dancers and the bodies of young ones, pieces from ballets we thought forgotten for ever. A brisk comic solo from *Rio Grande*, an exquisite dance from *The Lord of Burleigh*, a comic entry from *Harlequin in the Street*, and a scene from *Le Boisé de la Fée* (Ashton's first great role for Fortynay) were just a few of

the highlights. Even more precious was the chance to see again Fortynay in roles that evoked our childhood memories or the history books: solos, for instance, from *Nocturne* and *The Wise Virgins*. In the ballroom scene from *Apparitions* she had a new partner, Nureyev. ("My interpretation was quite different," muttered Sir Robert), but for the finale from *Daphnis and Chloe* her old partner, Michael Somes, appeared, and who cared if he could hardly dance it any more?

Not that this was only an occasion for sentiment: the standard of dancing in almost all the items at evening was as much a tribute to Sir Fred as the amazing diversity and astonishingly sustained standard of the ballets.

There were some pleasant surprises in the evening. Nureyev's appearance: in Idzikovsky's old role in *Les Rendez-vous* being the biggest, but with so much talent on show the familiar faces were equally a source of pleasure. The enthusiasm, energy and love that must have gone into simply assembling this programme is staggering to think of. There can never have been such a choreographic retrospective before, and I do not see how another of this kind and on this level is likely in our lifetime.

To make it a surprise for Sir Fred it was rehearsed behind locked doors and even the audience were not allowed programmes until leaving.

At the end flowers, presents but fortunately not too much in the way of speeches. Lord Droghda's announcement that Ashton will in future be known as founder-choreographer to the Royal Ballet was appreciated, but even more Ashton's own almost inarticulate brief speech of thanks. Beforehand he had told me "I shall ask my doctor for something to stop me from blubbing." If he did, it did not work, but Sir Fred was in good company: I imagine most of us present were pretty near tears.

ARLETTY

Arletty (Léonie Bathiat) the unforgettable star of Marcel Carné's screen masterpiece, *Les Enfants du Paradis*, died yesterday in Paris aged 94. She was born in the Courbevoie suburb on May 15, 1898.

ALTHOUGH she had command of a wide range of gifts, popular singer, music hall performer, comic and "straight" stage actress, it is to the underlying melancholy that Marcel Carné discovered in her, that Arletty owes her immortality. Her career was to last into the 1960s, as she paid frequent return visits to the stage where it had begun. But she belonged essentially to the golden age of French cinema, the 1930s and 1940s when masterpieces seemed to flow effortlessly from the Paris studios.

Her spouse was her performance as Graciane, the elusive beauty loved so intensely and so much in vain in *Les Enfants du Paradis*. Indeed the world owes to Carné's perceptiveness the discovery of an aspect of her character which might have lain forever buried under the earthy and joyous vulgarity which had been her stock in trade until he took over the direction of her career. In this long, intricate and often enigmatic melodrama she brilliantly sustained the role of the humiliated woman in a manner which combined world-weary sophistication with a haunting sense of vulnerability. The resulting film, to which her contribution was so germane, is one of the most memorable things to have emerged from the cinema.

Arletty was born Léonie Bathiat into a family and a caste whose outlook and innate vitality was shaped by the



Arletty with Pierre Brasseur in Carné's screen classic *Les Enfants du Paradis*

streets of Paris. Courbevoie, in those days, have been a drab suburb but its people: artisans, shop keepers, office workers, the odd crook and the occasional prostitute, were intensely aware of themselves as Parisians. Céline, a near contemporary, was from Courbevoie. His friend the metaphysical satirist Marcel Aymé, brilliantly caught the wit of its inhabitants in his writings. *Edith Piaf* evoked their vigorous brand of sentimentality in her songs. Arletty, beautiful and possessed of a somehow uncorrupted street wisdom, remains, quintessentially, their representative.

The Bathiat family was a large one and Léonie's mother was compelled to take in

washing to help support it even before her husband was killed in a metro accident in 1916. Léonie had to take a job in an amusements factory, but the Bohemian café life of Paris was her natural métier. It was in one such café that she was spotted by the Cubist painter Paul Guillaume. Entranced by her singular beauty, he sent her to a revue producer. She also picked up work as a model and by the end of the first world war she was earning a living as a chorus girl. She adopted the stage name Arletty, but for some reason changed the terminal "t" to a "y". She learned to sing and her performances on stage

brought her a wide circle of admirers, drawn as much by the earthy vitality of her character in revue sketches as by her scantily clad form behind the footlights. She was, after all, in her own words "as thin as a runner bean".

Cinema had at first no use for her. Her great asset, her voice, counted for nothing on the silent screen of those days. Sound remedied that, but the reputation she had made on stage as an essentially light actress, most at home as a prostitute or woman of easy virtue, did not at first go down well in the more serious studios. Nevertheless work eventually came, although her first few films were unmemorable. In the 1930s she worked with

the director Jacques Feyder in *Pension Mimosas* and with Sacha Guitry in *Les Perles de la Couronne* and *Désiré*.

But it was not until 1938 — when she was forty — that she began the collaboration with Marcel Carné which was to shape the rest of her life and ensure her immortality. In *Hôtel du Nord* (1938) she played — ironically in view of her earlier difficulties — a prostitute, Madame Raymond, a kind of Mother Courage of her profession, grumbling her way indomitably through a life divided between waiting for custom down by the Canal Saint-Martin and being maltreated by her murderous lover. In *Le Jour se lève* (1939) she played another mistress in a film whose fatalistic and violent mood was heavy with impending war.

Her admirers were by now legion — and unrequited. The Aga Khan wooed her immensely from afar but never got beyond dinner *d deux* in the private dining room of Laue's restaurant. Sacha Guitry, too, made a stupendous effort and was rewarded with, as he ruefully noted, "everlasting friendship". For a long time the most admired woman in Paris seemed to have no lover.

Ironically, again, when she did fall in love during the war this particular species of happiness presented itself in equivocal guise. Her chosen object was a high-ranking officer in the Luftwaffe, who was ADC to Goering. He was handsome and Arletty fell for him almost at first glance, with a passion which seemed the more violent for having been so long suppressed.

She was not, of course, the only French actress to have got into bed with the enemy and was personally unrepentant.

As she riposted when taxed with her apostasy: "My heart is French but my body is international." Nevertheless the climate of Liberation judged such behaviour harshly and she was charged with collaboration. This charge was subsequently dropped but she spent some time in an internment camp in 1944 was to find the offence counted against her when she later tried to get work.

Meanwhile *Les Enfants du Paradis* had appeared, astonishing international audiences that such a marvellous film could have been made under the noses of the German occupiers. By the time Arletty played Graciane she was actually 46. It was in a sense both the pinnacle and the end of her film career. Already mature to play romantic leads under the merciless scrutiny of the cameras, she returned to the stage where she found some rewarding roles in the Paris productions of plays such as *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She made a few more films, too, including Carné's *L'Air de Paris* (1954) and a version of Sartre's *Huit Clos*. But in 1963 she was blinded when she administered some medicine to her eyes, thinking it was eye lotion. Although an operation partially restored her sight it thereafter deteriorated again. Nevertheless the publication of her autobiography, *Je suis comme Je suis* at the age of 89 brought her renewed popularity and attention. The book took its title from a verse of one of the songs she had sung in her music hall days, and summed up her attitude to life perfectly.

Je suis come je suis, Je suis faite comme ça, Quand j'ai envie de rire, Oui je ris aux éclats

Speed ace's helmet sold

THE crash helmet worn by Donald Campbell when his power boat Bluebird overturned on Coniston Water during his ill-fated attempt on the world water speed record in 1967 fetched £5,500 at a Nottingham auction yesterday.

The virtually undamaged helmet was one of 105 items associated with Donald Campbell and his father, Sir Malcolm, which sold for a total of £49,000 at Neals. A private collector paid £5,500 for the remains of the steering wheel from Bluebird. The boat was salvaged from the lake bottom, Campbell's body was never found.

The collection was formed by Leo Villa, chief mechanic to both father and son, who died in 1979.

Today
BIRTHS: Thomas Eakins, painter, Philadelphia, 1844; Arthur James Balfour, 1st Earl of Balfour, prime minister 1902-05, Whitehall, London, 1848.
DEATHS: André-Marie Chénier, poet, executed, Paris, 1794; Charles Dillin, composer, actor-manager, London, 1814; Samuel Taylor Coleridge, poet, London, 1834; Charles Macintosh, pioneer of water-proofing, Glasgow, 1843; Henry Mayhew, journalist, co-founder of *Punch*, London, 1887; Engelbert Dollfus, chancellor of Austria 1932-34, assassinated by Nazis, Vienna, 1934; Billy Smart, circus proprietor, Ipswich, 1966; Louis St Laurent, prime minister of Canada 1948-57, Quebec, 1973.
Louis Bériot made the first aero-

Anniversaries

plane flight across the Channel, 1909. Resignation of Mussolini and end of Italian Fascism, 1943.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: John Field, composer, Dublin, 1782; Winthrop Mackworth Praed, poet and politician, London, 1802; George Bernard Shaw, Dublin, 1856; Serge Koussevitzky, conductor, Tver, Russia, 1874; Carl Gustav Jung, psychologist, Kesswil, Germany, 1875; André Maurois, novelist and biographer, Elbeuf, France, 1885; Aldous Huxley, novelist, Godalming, Surrey, 1894; Robert Graves, poet and novelist, London, 1898.
DEATHS: John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester, poet and courtier, Woodstock, Oxon, 1680; Samuel Houston, 1st president of

the Republic of Texas 1836-38, 1842-44; Huntsville, Texas, 1863; George Borrow, writer, Oulton, Suffolk, 1881; Sir James Murray, philologist, Oxford, 1915.

Maiden voyage of Brunel's *Great Britain* from Liverpool, arriving New York August 10, 1845. After a Labour landslide in the general election, Clement Attlee became prime minister, 1945.

Girdlers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Girdlers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Sir Thomas Crawley-Bovey; Upper Warden, Mr I.W. Fairclough; Middle Warden, Mr J.P. Reese; Renter Warden, Mr C.E. Crace.

Latest wills

Major-General Sir Gerald William Duke, of Hushams, Kent, 1863; George Borrow, writer, 1963-65, and formerly Colonel Commandant of the Military Provost Staff Corps and of the Royal Engineers, left estate valued at £160,170 net.

Mrs Cecilia Vera Lawson, of London SW1, left estate valued at £454,778 net.

Among bequests she left three watches to the Victoria and Albert Museum to be placed with her other jewellery already there, her effects not otherwise bequeathed to the National Trust, for use and display in her rooming hall, near Westminster, with the Elmar Digby Collection, and 7/10ths of the residue of that collection, with any surplus for the purchase of French art English furniture for that collection.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Mr Egon Edward Bulkeley, of Beedington, Merseyside, £334,584

Mr William Edward Callion, of Great Clifton, Cumbria 1940, 309
Mrs Lily Gladys Cannon, of Caversfield, Oxon, £794,905
Mrs Ruby Cohen, of Plymouth, Devon, £709,145
Mrs Phyllis Annie Hewett, of St. Mawes, Cornwall, £740,317
Mrs Marjorie Constance Miller, of Wolverhampton, West Midlands £399,340

Miss Judith Penelope Packe, of Bromley Common, Kent, £1,348,382

Mr John Daniel Rutter, of Axminster, Devon, £607,930
Mr Harold Sadler, of Newcastle upon Tyne, £588,304
Mrs Pamela Webster, of Greenstead, near Ongar, Essex, £1,250

Athletes prepare for festival as boycott era ends

FROM JOHN GOODBODY
IN BARCELONA

THE 25th Olympic Games will open here this evening in a carnival of fireworks, medieval drums, Catalan and Spanish hymns, and tableaux depicting the foundation of Barcelona. With the return to international sport of South Africa and the collapse of communism, these will be the first Games for 32 years which have not been damaged by political disputes.

A record 169 countries are attending, the absentees include Afghanistan and Somalia, where turmoil prevents teams from being sent. Individual competitors from Yugoslavia are participating, but not in team events.

The sprinter Ben Johnson finally checked in with the Canadian team yesterday, but will continue to stay in the hideaway where he has been for the past fortnight. Johnson is believed to be being advised again by Charlie Francis, who was banned from acting as an official coach in Canada after Johnson's positive drugs test in Seoul in 1988, when he lost the Olympic 100-metres title.

Space-age security, page 12
Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15
Games survival, page 36



Sporting chance: Muhammad Amur Rashid al-Malki, of Oman, with athletes from Lesotho in Barcelona's Olympic Village yesterday

UN chief warns diplomats

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND IAN MURRAY IN BONN

AN UNEASY compromise was emerging last night between Britain and Boutros Boutros Ghali over the London peace accord on Bosnia-Herzegovina, after the United Nations secretary-general had warned senior diplomats that the former Yugoslavia threatened to become "the UN's Vietnam".

The diplomat said Dr Boutros Ghali delivered his extraordinary warning to a private meeting of the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States. Dr Boutros Ghali later told the full 15-nation council that the fighting in

the former Yugoslav republics was a "war of the rich". The controversy over the London accord arose on Monday when, ignoring an appeal from the three warring factions in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the European Community, Dr Boutros Ghali rejected the agreement as not realistic.

Surprised by Dr Boutros Ghali's opposition, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary and chairman of the EC Council of Ministers, flew to New York. British diplomats then prepared a draft Security Council resolution telling the UN head to accept the London accord and draw plans for its implementation.

After Dr Boutros Ghali's objections, members decided not to pass a resolution that would amount to "a slap in the face". Instead, the British draft was to be turned into a non-binding council statement.

Last night, Serb and Croat leaders in Bosnia agreed to attend EC-mediated peace talks in London next week. The former Yugoslav republic's Muslim-led government has yet to respond.

In Bonn, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, called on John Major to take the initiative on refugees from the former Yugoslav republics and set up a joint response by the European Community.

Thousands flee Bosnia

Continued from page 1
trade union leader. "I was blindfolded when they took me to the third floor for interrogation." Prisoners were beaten.

On Tuesday a group was seen being marched into the hotel carrying broken oars. "They were ordered to bash the person in front if he looked around," one man said.

Corpses floated down the Sana river for two weeks. "First there was one, then fifteen minutes later a couple more," Mr Dautovic said.

Those who had fled Bosnia-Herzegovina said that they had been forced to sell their possessions at knock-down prices in a bid to survive. The going rate for video recorders

was £30. Asked if local Serbs were ashamed to buy in such circumstances, Samir said: "They couldn't wait to get their hands on the stuff, they set the prices".

Armed gangs robbed houses and businesses. One group forced a man to sell his successful cafe at a nominal price or die. One man reported that the former Muslim mayor was shot dead in the street as he went to get an asthma spray for his child. Everyone could name people who had "disappeared".

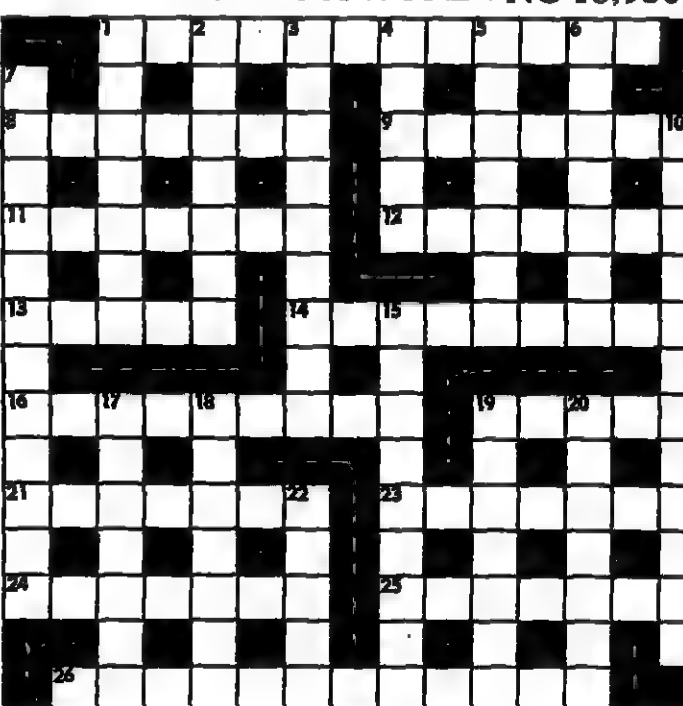
On July 15, notices were posted on the town hall saying that buses would be leaving for Croatia. "I queued up for 14 hours to get my permission to leave. They extended working hours for this,"

said one man. Many were granted permission only after signing over the ownership of their homes to the municipality. The final indignity was that those fleeing the town had to pay for their bus tickets.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees organised the flight from Bosanski Novi. Peter Kessler, its spokesman, said: "We put great credence in these stories." Referring to the wartime Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Jews from the death camps, he said: "I think the UN carried out a real Raul Wallenberg-type operation to save these people from this kind of fear."

UN rescue, page 12

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,980



- ACROSS**
- Opposed to colleague being on call endlessly, in responsive manner (12).
 - Insects are found inside one of the Scorpion group (7).
 - Loadly proclaim harlot's execution (7).
 - For Tokyo course, need re-drawn map? True (7).
 - Pacific group, but at war in, say, 1984 (7).
 - Board make progress (3,2).
 - Easily passes on (5,4).
 - Thrust forward, but fall before double attack (9).
 - Classify as mature, but lacking wife (5).
 - Wrongly flippant about where Viola was wrecked (7).
 - Old garment, seen in cotton (7).
 - Guesswork — but not in teaching (7).
 - Pair reject me at first, then are welcoming (7).
 - The stage version of The Brontës (5,7).

- DOWN**
- Go and bat — no opener to lead on (7).
 - Proud King Rat elevated one in five (7).
 - Tree breaks as I chop it (9).
 - Excel in society, just as before (5).
 - Charm a stubborn person with extremes of tenderness (7).
 - The French show fight against the Turks (7).
 - Excellent position close to game (7-5).
 - Habitude of platform involved in apt retorts (5-7).
 - Stark attitude of keen and reformed Nazis (9).
 - Elizabethan compother's prayer-scarf (7).
 - Florence Nightingale, say, had drug to hand (7).
 - How gamekeeper begins to discover grouse (7).
 - French city where one may find gold? Depends (7).
 - Coins belonging to the girl from the Five Towns (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,974

PLUCKILY OTLITG
O P N O S C O R
U N P O U N C E A B L E
N E W S P A P E R
C E R T I F I C A T I O N
E N D O R S E M E N T
E M A N G O V E R K I P P S
A E I O R T
C R E W S C O P Y B O O K
O P T I C A L M
U N D E R G O C H O I C E
R I T I R A O M M N
S E C O N D C O M M A N D
E G A H E T E
D R Y I D E N P R E F I E N D

Solution to Puzzle No 18,979

I N F A N C Y A U R O C H S
N O O A P E L U
F I R S T R H O D A M I N E
O E M D T R M D
R O T T E N C H A I S I U B L E
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A P E S A S A A
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I O T I E I E
B L E S S E D D E P O S I T

PARKER DUOFOLD
A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- MORA**
a. A region of Romania
b. The masonry
c. An unwarranted legal delay
- FORMIST**
a. A hypothetical legal case
b. A creator of geometric puzzles
c. Early morning haze
- CONVATE**
a. Coexisting slave birth
b. To struggle militantly
c. Having fir cones
- QUARENDEEN**
a. A red apple
b. A quarry
c. A hunting horn

Answers on page 16

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday, c. cloud, f. fair, r. rain, s. sun	C	F
Belfast	17	63
Birmingham	20	68
Blackpool	18	64
Bristol	25	77
Cardiff	25	77
Edinburgh	17	63
Glasgow	16	61
London	25	77
Manchester	19	66
Newcastle	20	68
Nottingham	19	66
Sheffield	17	63
Southampton	20	68
Stirling	17	63
Wolverhampton	20	68

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE	731
C. London (within N & S Cries)	732
M-ways/roads V4 M1	733
M-ways/roads M1 Dartford T M23	734
M-ways/roads M23 M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Anglia	742
North west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0811 5011 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon.	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Northfolk, Suffolk, Cambs.	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Pembrokeshire	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N.W. England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N.E. England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S.W. Scotland	720
W. Central Scotland	721
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E. Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E. Highlands	724
N.W. Scotland	725
Orkney, Shetland & Na H-Eil.	726
W. Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Today's pollen count forecast is LOW SELDANE

A major advance in hayfever treatment.

WEATHER

Rain over Northern Ireland and western Scotland will spread across the rest of Scotland this morning and then into Wales, northern England and the Midlands, becoming lighter. Elsewhere, it will be dry with bright or sunny periods. Clearer weather with scattered showers will reach north-west Scotland by early afternoon. Outlook: warm with sunny spells over south-east England; elsewhere cloudier with showers, thundery in north-west.

ABERDEEN

MIDDAY:	inshore:	shore:	offshore:	offshore:	offshore:	Sun	Mon
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- 6.35 **Open University** Harvesting the Sun 7.00 Klein's Unification of Geometry (1732551)
 7.25 **News and weather** (6235552) 7.30 **Halle Spencer** Puppet show (8930073) 7.50 **Babar** Cartoon adventures of the royal elephant (1433011) 8.15 **New Lassie** (1) (CeeFax) (1271583)
 8.35 **The Jetsons** Animated fun with the space-age family (2371380)
 9.00 **Parallels** 9. Roddy Maude-Roxby, Helen Atkins, Jenny Bolt, Dominic McHale and Kevin Williams are joined by Jason Donovan, Ian Smith and Right Said Fred (s) (1931592) 10.47 **Weather** (9515583)
 10.50 **Olympic Grandstand** Introduced by Steve Rider in Barcelona who takes a look at the personalities who could be making the Olympic headlines during the next fortnight. Plus Cricket: live coverage of the third day's play in the fourth Test between England and Pakistan at Headingley (s) 1.00 News and Racing from Ascot: the Witterbach Diamond Stakes (2.00); the Princess Margaret Stakes (2.35); and the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes (3.20) (10.50-11.00 87166496, 1.00-5.00 9942729)
 5.00 **News and weather** (9325458)
 5.10 **Regional news and sport** (2370545)
 5.15 **Cartoon** (2379816)
 5.20 **Summer Rental** (1985) Low-key comedy starring John Candy as a blue collar worker determined to take his family on holiday to Florida. Directed by Carl Reiner (1648859)
 6.45 **Olympic Grandstand** Desmond Lynam presents live coverage of the opening ceremony from the Olympic Stadium in Barcelona. David Coleman provides the commentary (s) (30280598)
 10.10 **News and sport** with Michael Buerk. (CeeFax) Weather (880477)



Leader of the pack: futuristic warrior Mel Gibson (10.30pm)

- 10.30 **Film: Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome** (1985) Mel Gibson and Tina Turner star in the third of the futuristic adventures. Directed by George Miller and George Ogilvie. (CeeFax) (41653800)
 12.10am **Film: Madigan** (1988) starring Richard Widmark as a tough New York detective who is given 72 hours to bring in a deranged killer. Directed by Don Siegel (924171)
 1.50 **Weather** 21.58/13

VideoPlus and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00. These numbers are used to identify the programme on the VideoPlus system. For more details on the VideoPlus system, please contact your local VideoPlus centre or call 0800 555 123.

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 ● Via the Astra and Maripol satellites
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BUSINESS PROFILE: Michael Stoddart

Gliding Electra on a smooth path to profits

Carol Leonard finds the chairman of a fund management group who puts integrity and ethics before performance

Michael Stoddart, the chairman and virtual creator of Electra, the quoted fund management group and one of the most respected such organisations in the City, leaps out from behind his desk, his thick mop of silver-grey hair moving involuntarily as he springs to his feet, and stretches out a firm hand.

His manner is instantly warm and friendly, his voice well-spoken but not starchy and his clothing unexpectedly dishevelled. He wears slip-on shoes, thick, woolly grey socks, a shirt that needs to be ironed and a suit jacket that hangs loosely from his shoulders.

"I am very untidy," he says. "I'm not what you would call dapper, am I?" We both laugh. He takes no offence. "It caused a considerable amount of amusement when I was chairman of Next."

Stoddart's association with Next began in its Hep-

worth days and has been long and varied. He remains a non-executive director and recalls one occasion when he was deputy chairman and Sir Terence Conran was chairman. "We were discussing men's fashion at a board meeting and Conran requested that the deputy chairman rise to his feet. I stood up and he said that here was an example of sartorial elegance. Everyone laughed. My wardrobe in London is quite dark, you see, and I had somehow put on a grey jacket with a pair of trousers that didn't match. No, I didn't mind in the least." Stoddart can stand any amount of personal criticism or teasing. He frequently tells jokes and funny stories against himself. But his good humour would quickly disappear if you were to question his or Electra's ethics or integrity.

"I'm extremely proud of Electra's good name," he says. "We might not be the top performer, but we have a reputation worldwide as being good people to deal with and totally ethical." Dishonesty is the

one thing that makes him lose his temper. "I have quite a fetish for honesty. If I have three bottles of Scotch in my suitcase I will declare them." That one cause of anger aside, he admits that he is sometimes criticised for being too nice. "I have had that comment and I don't think I am tough enough for today's world. I'm not particularly ruthless, but then again, I know what I want and I usually get it. It's just that I would always stop at the boundaries — and well before. You can negotiate fairly, decently and openly and still end up with a perfectly good deal. I suppose every generation changes."

His conversation trails off. He is, he adds, behind rather than ahead of his time. He nods in agreement when asked if he feels uncomfortable in today's bustling, aggressive business environment. He tries to dismiss himself as "streetwise

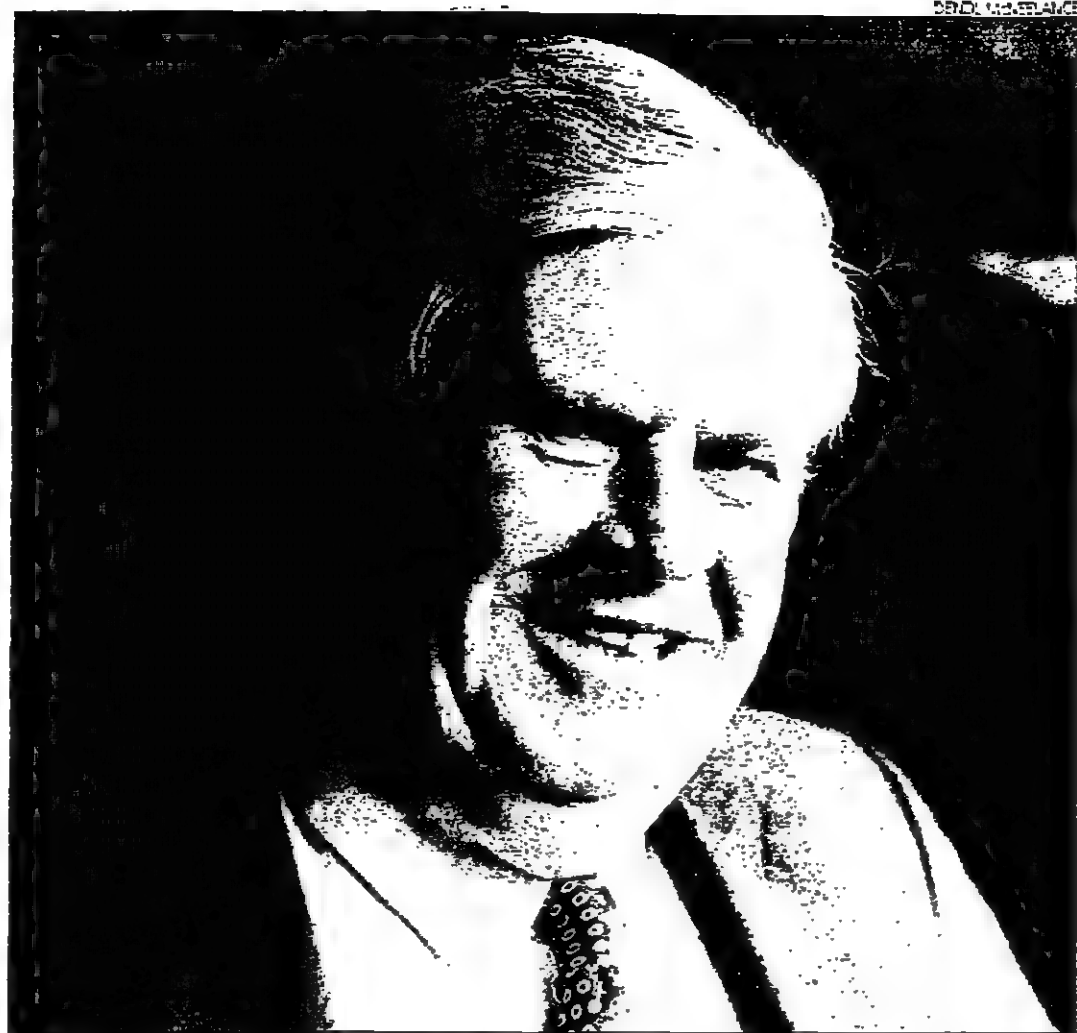
'I have quite a fetish for honesty. If I have three bottles of Scotch in my suitcase I declare them'

rather than bright" and hints that he might retire within the next year or two. Now 60, he would, he says, like to start "winding down", and will retire before he is 65.

Robert Glines, Cooper, a friend since Stoddart's days with Singer

& Friedlander, a merchant bank, in Birmingham 24 years ago, has seen him in action. "I wouldn't say he was streetwise at all. He always puts all his cards straight on the table, but he has remarkable skill when it comes to judging people and bringing out the best in them. His approach to life is that it's got to be fun as well as profitable but you should never underestimate what lies behind that caddy exterior. He has an astonishingly good brain, regardless of how he describes himself, and he is a brilliant negotiator. He makes sure everybody has a fair deal, everyone goes away feeling happy."

Whatever his formula, it is one that works. When Stoddart took Electra public in 1976 — with the stated objective of investing in



"Not what you would call dapper, am I?" Stoddart raised a few eyebrows while chairman of Next

unquoted companies and special situations — it had net assets of £50 million. It now has assets of £500 million. "Our criteria is to outperform the FT Actuaries and to increase the dividend by at least the rate of inflation," Stoddart explains. Until two years ago, it had outperformed the FT Actuaries index "by a substantial amount" and its dividend had always been increased by more than the rate of inflation, but the past two years, he says, have been difficult for the development capital world "because of the nature of the investments we make. They tend to be small and therefore particularly vulnerable to recessions. Also, so many people made their money on the back of leveraged buyouts and when things go wrong there, they go seriously wrong."

Electra stopped investing alto-

gether last year because Stoddart was so pessimistic about the British economy. "I think it's very serious," he says. "I see no sign of an upturn for two or three years. We have too much capacity in manufacturing and infrastructure and by that I mean too many shops and offices. The driving force in the seventies and eighties was the value of property and it is no longer the value of the nation then people will not feel so rich."

In the future, the seventies and eighties will be seen as an abnormal period and the nineties as normal, with comparatively high unemployment, a battering down and low expectations, he says. "But that doesn't mean that there are not wonderful opportunities. It will be a time of changes in management and we

make our money by backing good management. We will just have to adjust." Part of that adjustment will be a reduction in the return on capital sought by Electra, from 30 per cent three years ago, to 25 per cent "on a good deal".

Typical of those investments are the 10 per cent stake — now 7.5 per cent — in Electra bought in Oppenheimer, the American investment bank, in 1975, the 19 per cent stake it bought in MW Marshall, the moneybroker, in 1976, and the 10 per cent stake it bought in Akroyd & Smithers, the jobber, in 1986. The association with Oppenheimer turned out to be more than a good investment. It influenced Electra's direction by introducing Stoddart to the world of management and leveraged buyouts, when such concepts were almost unknown in Britain. In 1980, Electra

was also the first overseas investor to subscribe to one of KKR's funds, spotting the potential of Henry Kravis and his LBO boutique early on. Now Stoddart is considering moving into bank debt purchasing. "We are looking at setting up a company, a separate company. It is big business in the US but no one is doing it here."

An opportunist, yes, and one of life's doers, but Stoddart is not, he says, a detail man. "I'm an entrepreneur, a concept and ideas man. I'm good at spotting opportunities and I apply a reasonable degree of common sense rather than taking an ultra-sophisticated view."

His pragmatic and industrious approach to life — he often walks to his Kingsway office from his Warwick Square, Pimlico, house — is surprising given his privileged background. Born in Cheshire, into what he describes as an upper middle class household, and educated at Marlborough, his parents — still alive and in their 90s — were second cousins and both members of the Bowring family, which founded the large insurance company of that name. His father switched from being a Liverpool grain broker to a farmer in Here-

"I think it pleased my father enormously."

Despite his need for money, Stoddart is not at all materialistic. He has his suits made by Next or buys them off the peg in sales and is going to have to foot a bill running into "hundreds of thousands of pounds" for losses at Lloyd's over the next five years. But he takes things such as staff at his country home on the Hereford and Worcester/Staffordshire border for granted and says his idea of a self-indulgent treat would be to pay for him and his family — wife Bridget and children Philippa, James, Lucinda and Edward — to return from a holiday in the West Indies on Concorde.

Looking back, he does, he says, have regrets, but only in business, not in his personal life. "I have made masses of mistakes but if you get more right than wrong then in business you are reasonably all right. I think when it comes to entrepreneurial ideas, I'm fine, but I'm not very good at the real cut and thrust." Having to sack an employee would, for instance, cause him sleepless nights and he would put it off. "But, in the end, you have to be honest and then try to do it humanely." In that trait he has never altered. He has always shied away from overt aggression, but usually for sound intellectual reasons. He is in no sense a snob; he takes his traps, waiters and taxi drivers with the same civility and good humour that he would a peer of the realm.

Typical of him, however, is a story he tells about his days as a sergeant in the army cadet corp at school. He was supposed to be leading his troops into a mock battle on Salisbury Plain. "It was raining and cold and since I knew where the enemy was I led my troops straight to them so that we all got killed," he says. "It was a practical decision so that we could all get back on to the nice warm bus. It was all over in about ten minutes but everybody else took a very dim view and I was stripped of my stripes immediately." Was he upset? "No," he replies. "It didn't bother me at all."

'I'm a concept and ideas man, good at spotting opportunities and applying a degree of common sense'

ping for granted and he treats waiters and taxi drivers with the same civility and good humour that he would a peer of the realm.

Trading a credit name of , operat- a nearby e would : as a pic.

Matthew Bond

Ginger Tom homes in for a bite from Mr Major's First Option

ASSET price inflation, we are now repeatedly told, was the opium of the eighties. While the buzz lasted, it was the most marvellous, heady feeling — a surreal, out-of-body experience that sent your mind floating free to look down on a wallet that grew ever fatter.

Come on, don't pretend you never tried it. Watching the value of virtually everything you owned rise higher. Houses, land, shares, works of art, sports-cars, bottles of wine, race-horses — you named it — or better still, owned it — and the price went up and, boy, did that feel good.

But, as we need little reminding, we were sowing the poppy seeds of our destruction. What went up, could only come crashing down again and, boy, does that hurt. Up and down the nation's high streets, haunted-looking, shrunken wallets — pale shadows of their former, glorious selves — stumble mechanically along, sustained only by the desperate hope that such heady days might one day return.

Well for eighties addicts and inflation junkies everywhere there may be good news. Call it grasping at green shoots, call it grabbing at tail feathers — but asset price inflation just may be on its way back. If so, it has to be said that it is starting in a curious place, which is unlikely to bring much immediate relief to the inflation-starved housing and commercial property markets.

But how much more appropriate that in Mr Major's classless society economic recovery — or at least the next spending boom — will be able to trace its roots, not to a Bond Street auction room or City trading floor, but to a Midlands' pigeon loft.

The £110,000 paid for a four year old racing pigeon, well over 40 per cent above the previous record, is just the sort of kick-start that the economy was looking for. More encouragingly, the buyers saw off previously fierce competition from Japan, confirming a strong causal link between the level of the



Nikkei Dow and pigeon prices.

Analysts have been quick to point out that assuming 40 off-spring a year at an average price of £1,000, Invincible Spirit stands — or perches — on a price-spirals ratio of less than three. More cautious commentators believe that vulnerability to the Ginger Tom factor — the ultimate predatory bid in avian circles — could make a less demanding multiple prudent.

Most, however, agree that a re-rating of the north of England pigeon population is now imminent. In an attempt to release some of this cooped up wealth into the rest of the economy, the Halifax and Bradford & Bingley building societies are well advanced on plans for pigeon-backed, higher priced, perhaps, but how many houses have gone up 40 per cent in value recently?

The knock-on effects could be considerable. Lord King, the Invincible Spirit at British Airways, was quick to note that these days record breaking pigeons travel by plane,

rather than going to all the effort of flapping themselves.

Suitably encouraged, the BA chairman promptly went out and spent £391 million on a 44 per cent stake in USAir, America's fourth largest airline. Two days later the American airline announced a 50 per cent increase in second quarter losses to \$85 million, which compares less than favourably with BA's recent annual profit of £285 million. American air industry regulators are already examining the Ginger Tom factor. Meanwhile Lord King is keeping his paws — sorry, wings — crossed that USAir is one American acquisition by a British company that does not come home to roost.

Elsewhere it has to be said that the 40 per cent jump in pigeon prices was well ahead of other leading economic indicators. Money supply, as measured by the appetitously named M0 which measures bank notes and coins in the economy, is growing at an annual rate of only 1.3 per cent — its lowest for ten years — and in June actually fell by

0.8 per cent. Falling too was the level of retail sales, which declined 0.2 per cent in June. All very gloomy and at least some of the reasons why the London stock market seems locked in a terminal dive. Unless, of course, consumers are paying cash for high-priced pigeons, whose carry northern vendors then deposit the proceeds in M0-excluded building society accounts. Well, it's a theory.

And probably one that the prime minister places considerable faith in, given his futile task of waiting for more conventional signs of economic recovery. In fact, at the moment, it is more a case of avoiding all too conventional signs of continuing economic recession. This week, having survived the interest rate rises by the Germans and Italians, it was the turn of the Spanish authorities to turn the heat on the Bank of England, when they began the task of damping down a potential case of Olympian and Expo-inspired inflation with a 0.6 per cent rise in the intervention rate.

But Mr Major and Mr Leigh Pemberton refused to entertain what London money market rates persistently suggested. Indeed Mr Major and his Treasury cohorts were actually able to announce a cut in interest rates. Sadly for anyone contemplating hitting the plastic in a big way, it was a cut in savings rate. To be specific it was a half point cut in the rate offered by the one year First Option bond from National Savings.

The cut came in response to protests from the Cheltenham & Gloucester building society that it would have to raise its savings rate — and therefore its mortgage rate — to compete effectively with National Savings. Despite counter-protests that C&G's deposit shortage was more to do with the lack of pigeons in its bijou West Country territory, the government willed in the face of such powerful pressure and cut the First Option rate.

The government is to replace it with a new, less competitive product shortly — the Absolutely No Option bond. Personally, I'll stick with pigeons.

M&G EUROPEAN & GENERAL RECORD

Year ended 31st December	£1,000 Lump Sum		£40 a month	
	Building Society	M&G European & General	Building Society	M&G European & General
24 July 1972	£1,000	£1,000	£40	£40
1972	1,020	958	200	189
1973	1,088	978	680	616
1974	1,171	698	1,160	804
1975	1,257	944	1,640	1,506
1976	1,347	878	2,120	1,923
1977	1,443	952	2,600	2,555
1978	1,537	1,028	3,080	3,227
1979	1,670	1,202	3,560	4,272
1980	1,847	1,364	4,040	5,321
1981	2,021	1,328	4,520	5,628
1982	2,203	1,506	5,000	6,893
1983	2,366	1,918	5,480	9,272
1984	2,552	2,346	5,960	11,839
1985	2,779	3,528	6,440	18,407
1986	2,999	5,724	6,920	30,437
1987	3,231	4,672	7,400	25,201
1988	3,462	5,532	7,880	30,332
1989	3,789	8,570	8,360	47,564
1990	4,198	7,090	8,840	39,744
1991	4,552	7,472	9,320	42,327
30 June 1992	4,713*	7,984	9,560	45,453

Notes: All figures include re-invested income net of basic-rate tax. M&G European & General figures show the return to the investor. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office — Financial Statistics). An investment in M&G European & General of £1,000 on 30th June 1987 would have grown to £1,231 by 30th June 1992. An investment of £40 a month from 30th June 1987 (£2,400) would have grown to £2,693 by 30th June 1992 with net income reinvested. *Estimated using current interest rate levels. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. You may get back less than you invested.

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BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	99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WEEKEND MONEY

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Clearing a way to raise charges

COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

It is good to see that the banking code has made no difference in the way one of the big four treats its credit card customers. Midland decided to change the way it credited payments to accounts a couple of weeks after the code came in.

This means that more people will pay interest but the bank did not think it worth telling the hapless customers of the change, so that they could avoid the punitive interest rates levied when a payment reaches the account one day late. Statements still go out warning customers to allow seven working days for their cheques to arrive in the post as they have done for the last 20 years. No mention is made of the change from crediting payments to accounts on the day they arrive at the bank to crediting the money when it has cleared through the bank's system four days or so later.

Those customers, who have, over the years, become adept at cutting payments fine so that banks do not receive a penny too much a day too early, and have trusted to the first class post to wing their payments to

the bank in two or three days, are now finding they are charged interest. No explanation is given as to why their payments are credited so late. They blame the Post Office.

Cynical observers might remark that it appears Midland does not trust its customers and expects all their cheques to bounce. It is much more likely that it is just rather pleased with itself for finding a way of charging more customers interest.

Those customers who have kicked up a fuss and asked why on earth it is taking so long for payments to be credited have received refunds. This is hardly the spirit of a code that was intended to make all systems of charging open, easily understood and therefore avoidable.

Those with bills due for payment on August 5 would not dream of sending off payment today to NatWest, Barclays or Lloyds because they do not want to see it credited to

their account on Monday. They prefer to have use of their money for as long as possible. Midland customers should escape charges if they get the cheque in the post today.

It will save a lot of furious calculation as to what the cost of the credit is when their cheque takes five days to clear and they are one day late. The annual percentage rates in the circumstances are astronomical.

If their account is with the Midland they will need to change their pattern of payments if they want to continue to avoid paying interest.

High earners

When it comes to astronomical charges without prior notification Barclays can give the other banks a few lessons. One seriously overdrawn customer was surprised to be charged £1,604.67 by his London branch. He asked for a breakdown of the figures and was told that he had been charged £450 for 36 telephone calls. In addition 13.9 hours of the assistant manager's time was charged for at £731.67 — a rate of

£52.63 an hour. His boss worked on the account for 4.25 hours and charged £391, the equivalent of £92.50 an hour or £190,000 a year.

Barclays declined to say whether the branch was its most expensive. Tariffs have been banded around by all the banks and many of the building societies in keeping with the code but they do not detail all these extras.

It might be worth customers taking the trouble to find out what their bank manager charges for his time and for that of his staff.

It is even more irritating for customers to be clobbered with an unexpected bank charge when they have done their research to find out which bank offers the cheapest service.

A Weekend Money reader who called the big four banks and American Express to find out their charges for French francs and travellers

cheques decided to place his order with the local NatWest.

The charges were agreed at two per cent with a minimum of £4.50. But when the cheques were picked up there was an extra charge of £2.25. Oh that's for postage explained the branch. Customers are individually charged for the cost of the bank distributing its cheques.

The idea of detailing this charge when customers asked for a quote had not occurred to them. Once again the bank agreed to rescind the charges when they were spotted.

It is a shame that such important businesses feel that customers should be the last to be told what they will have to pay.

Most of us manage to avoid bank charges by careful maintenance of our accounts. It is therefore all the more galling to fall foul of one of the extra charges that whole teams at banks seem to be researching and developing.

Honesty, openness and keeping the customers informed? Maybe one day, but in the meantime we have to keep a close watch.

It pays home buyers to examine all mortgage options — but beware of pitfalls

Take-up of loans at fixed rates surges

BY LINDSAY COOK

FIXED mortgage rates, which have been ignored by homebuyers since the election, came back into their own this week. The temporary increase in Cheltenham & Gloucester's mortgage rate — and the fear that other lenders would follow it up after eight downward moves — worried borrowers.

The C&G has reversed its mortgage increase from today but poor building society savings figures for the first half of the year and fears of a rise in German rates, mean the threat of higher rates lingers.

Certainty of payments for three, five or even 25 years has to be balanced against arrangement fees and any extra insurance sold as part of the package.

The Halifax said: "These loans are always popular at times of interest rate uncertainty." Abbey National said that after a quiet three months for fixed loans, they "really picked up" last week. Nationwide Anglia also reported a flood of applicants.

Nationwide Anglia offers three-year, guaranteed-rate mortgages to existing customers and people buying or selling properties through its estate agency. The rate is 8.95 per cent in the first year, rising to 9.95 per cent for the next two. This works out at an annual percentage rate of 11.3 per cent over 25 years.

There is a reservation fee of £250. In addition to the usual application fee, buildings and contents insurance has to be taken out with Nationwide Anglia. The loans are available on a repayment or endowment basis and free mortgage payment cover is

provided for the first 12 months.

Halifax, the largest mortgage lender, offers loans at 9.95 per cent (APR 11 per cent) until September 1997. There is an arrangement fee of £250 but no linked service has to be bought. The terms are available for endowment, pension and personal equity plan loans and for interest-only loans above £100,000.

Anyone redeeming the mortgage before October next year has to pay the equivalent of five monthly payments. During the next year, the cost is four payments and during the last three years it is three.

Abbey National has mortgages fixed at 10.45 per cent over five years. This is an APR of 11.3 per cent for endowment loans and 11.4 per cent for repayment ones. There is an administration fee of £180. Borrowers who cash in the loans before October next year pay 120 days' interest; over the next four years the penalty is 90 days' interest. Cheltenham & Gloucester has fixed-rate mortgages at 9.6 per cent (APR 11.2 per cent) over two years. The application fee is £150 but there is no compulsory insurance or other services.

The mortgages can be taken as repayment or interest-only. Although the rate is attractive, the package offered since July 2 has not been as popular as the society's five-year fixes. Anyone paying off the loan



within three years is charged three months' gross interest.

People borrowing at fixed rates are gambling that variable mortgage rates will not undercut them during the period. It might be annoying, three years on, to be paying more than neighbours or colleagues but fixes that end up

expensive can still save money. Leeds Permanent borrowers who took its 12.75 per cent fixed rate in September 1989 will soon have their rate cut by two percentage points to 10.65 per cent when the three years finishes.

They should be pleased with an arrangement that has saved them hundreds of pounds. Someone taking out a £50,000 loan at the fixed rate would by mid-June have paid £17,535. With a variable loan, they would have paid £18,612. With three more payments at

12.75 per cent, they will be more than £800 in pocket when the loan is completed.

The variable rate was 13.45 per cent when the fix was offered and climbed to 15.4 per cent in the next six months before starting to falter in months later. Since July last year, those with this particular fixed-rate mortgage have been paying more than variable-rate borrowers.

The previous Leeds fix was at 12.25 per cent and was offered in March 1989. Borrowers who took out £50,000 loans paid £2,248 less over the three years than those with variable-rate loans.

The Leeds offers no short-term fixed rates at the moment but expects to launch a fixed and a capped mortgage next month. It does have a 20- or 25-year fix at 11.25 per cent (APR 11.9 per cent). The arrangement fee is £250 and the early redemption penalty is between one and six months' interest, depending on how early in the term the loan is paid off.

Annoying as it can be, three years on, to pay more than others, a fix might still save money

Rapid mortgage to beat stamp duty

HOMEBUYERS only just realising that the stamp duty threshold will return to £30,000 from £250,000 on August 19 are being offered a quick mortgage application scheme by the Yorkshire Building Society, which is headed by Derek Roberts (Lindsay Cook writes).

It is reminiscent of those heady days before the bubble burst, when valuers had car fax machines to get the infor-

mation back to the lenders so that they could make instant mortgage offers.

Customers making applications on a weekday before 10am will receive a mortgage offer the following day, subject to the property and their references passing muster. The Mortgage Rapide system costs £100 but typically will save a homebuyer £600 if they avoid stamp duty.

The tax is charged at 1 per cent on properties sold for more than £250,000 currently but will be charged on properties above £30,000 from August 19. The average property costs about £60,000 and from late August will incur a £600 bill.

The removal of stamp duty from all but the most expensive properties was intended by the government to boost the housing market. So far there has been no evidence of that happening.

Mortgage Rapide is available on loans up to 95 per cent of the purchase price or valuation, whichever is the lower. The property must be a private dwelling for owner occupation. The maximum that can be borrowed is £100,000.

Details of the service are available on 0800 378836.



Derek Roberts: fast offers

Borrowers warned on hidden cost catches

BY OUR MONEY EDITOR

MORTGAGES at unusually low rates of interest are being offered in advertisements and leaflets. The Office of Fair Trading this week warned borrowers to be wary. "Mortgage interest rates are set by the market," it said. "If one is significantly lower, you need to question why. There may be a hidden catch or some interest may be deferred."

The Council of Mortgage Lenders has received reports of several mortgage schemes at rates far lower than its members can match. A spokeswoman said: "If a rate is well below that at which our members can raise funds, you have to wonder how small organisations can make such offers."

One such scheme is offered by Hammer Enterprises, in north London. It says it has mortgages fixed at 4.5 per cent (APR 5.62 per cent) for the full 25-year term. Remor-

gages are offered at 6.5 per cent and non-status loans at 7.1 per cent.

Borrowers are urged to telephone an 0891 number, where they can listen to details of mortgages on offer and the valuation scheme being offered.

Mike Hammer, who identified himself as a director of Hammer Enterprises plc, said there was a £350 administration fee, which was not refundable if no loan was granted.

Applicants had to put down a 10 per cent deposit for a minimum of three months before they were considered. This earned no interest during the period and was refunded if a mortgage was not offered. Mr Hammer said the company would "look into" the possibility of paying interest on the money in that event. He said the company, which had operated for 16

years, began making cheap loans available at the beginning of the year.

"Building societies and banks offer employees subsidised mortgages. We are going one stage further and offering them to the general public," he added.

The company invested its own funds in other currencies to earn 27 per cent a year, Mr Hammer said. It had decided "as a service to the public" to use this money to provide mortgages. Under the scheme, clients became shareholders. Mr Hammer said there had been hundreds of enquiries for the loans.

The Office of Fair Trading said it had issued a credit licence in 1978 in the name of a Michael Hammer, operating as a sole trader at a nearby address. This licence would not allow him to trade as a plc, a spokesman said.

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Lautro considers second censure for Reliance Mutual

Sara McConnell reports on the plight of pensioners who bought home income plans that failed

THE Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) is considering disciplinary action against Reliance Mutual Insurance for selling investment bond-based home income plans to about 150 retired people. The tied agent which sold most of the schemes conceded this week he had been "wrong" to think the schemes could work.

Lautro's monitoring committee is considering a report submitted by the enforcement department but Lautro will not comment on possible disciplinary action. Reliance Mutual was disciplined two years ago when it allowed a firm of tied agents to sell inappropriate life assurance in nurses' and students' hostels.

Mike Abrahams, Lautro's chief enforcement officer, said: "Reliance Mutual has contacted all investors and is visiting all those with bonds who requested a visit. When this is completed, Lautro will then ask for a full list and either pick out names or contact a random sample to see if they are satisfied with Reliance's solution."

This approach has been devised by Lautro to deal with complaints about home income plans because so many investors have been caught out. Mr Abrahams said the approach was intended to "short-circuit normal complaints procedures".

About 100 of the plans were devised and marketed by All Saints Investment and Pensions, a former tied agent of Reliance Mutual. As with similar plans, elderly people were encouraged to take out a mortgage on their home and invest the lump sum from the loan in a Reliance Mutual investment bond. In theory,

the income from the bond would cover monthly mortgage repayments and provide extra money.

One of the "benefits" of the All Saints plan was that "at a later date, the investor may be able to use any increase in the property value for a further advance for additional income". Brian Newell, managing director of All Saints, said: "I should have thought about it more. Perhaps I shouldn't have sold the plans but everything was approved by Reliance Mutual."

Literature given to clients by All Saints provided examples of how the bond worked and assumed property prices would grow 7.5 per cent a year.

John and Janet Watson, of Stockport, Cheshire, invested £55,000 in a Reliance Mutual bond two-and-a-half years ago, now worth £30,000. Daisy Price, of North Hykeham, Lincolnshire, has seen her bond fall from £21,763 to £12,649.74 since July 1989. All want cash compensation to put them back to their financial position before taking out the bond.

But Lautro agreed with Reliance Mutual that the company could offer its clients the option of a series of "guarantees" as an alternative to cash compensation.

In a further move, without consulting Lautro, Reliance Mutual is offering similar "guarantees" to those investors

who, the company says, appear to have understood the risks they were taking with the plans. Cash compensation is apparently not an option for these people, including Mrs Price.

Reliance Mutual wrote to Mrs Price on May 27 this year, after a visit. It offered her "full security and reassurance": "We will guarantee that the mortgage interest repayments to the building society [National Counties Building Society] will be made throughout your lifetime. We will guarantee to pay you the personal income of £100 per month throughout your lifetime and reinstate it with immediate effect. We will guarantee that you will be able to remain in your house throughout your lifetime. You can retain for your personal use the cash sums you have already received from the plan."

However, the letter adds: "In exchange for giving us these guarantees, in addition to your bond being reinstated with Reliance Mutual, you will need to agree to additional mortgages being taken on the house, if and when the need arises. Our guarantees will include the interest payments on any additional amounts."

Reliance Mutual refused to comment on the content of the letter or to say whether cash compensation would be an option. It also declined to respond to suggestions that making guarantees conditional on further mortgage ad-



Seeking a fair solution: Mike Abrahams of Lautro

vances could push investors further into debt if the bond failed to perform and had to be refinanced. Philip Bowden, Reliance Mutual's life and pensions manager, said: "All Saints is a former appointed representative of Reliance Mutual, who did sell some home income plans. A review of their business has been carried out and the procedures for this review were agreed with Lautro."

Lautro said: "What Reliance Mutual are offering in the company's guarantee scheme

is to ensure that the home income plan will work on the basis originally proposed by All Saints. This includes providing money for further investment if there is insufficient equity in the investor's home and taking responsibility, on the investor's death, for any shortfall between the top mortgage debt and the realisable value of the house."

It added: "Lautro neither recommends nor prohibits this scheme being offered to investors in appropriate circumstances."



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Brokers claim problem lies with presentation of accounts a year late

Societies set tough criteria on loans to self-employed

BY SHIRLEY DAVENPORT

THE self-employed are finding it tougher to arrange mortgages as lenders tighten their lending criteria.

Although lenders deny discrimination, mortgage brokers claim the usual custom of the self-employed presenting their accounts a year late is a problem.

In the boom years it was often possible for the self-employed to borrow money by declaring income without producing accounts, and pay higher interest rates into the bargain. However, the recession forced many of these borrowers into debt, unable to make their loan repayments.

A significant number of people made redundant in the last year have decided to become consultants or set up their own businesses. Many face difficulties if they try to sell their home to move to a smaller one, or if they try to remortgage to raise money for their business.

"If accounts are not up to date, lenders will be nervous about what has happened in the past 18 months," said Ian Darby at John Charcol. "They will assume that most businesses have had a bad year, making them look less impressive than their accounts for the year before."

"In the 1980s, lenders regarded the income recorded by a self-employed person as their minimum earnings, and loans were often granted on the basis of a fairly brief

accountant's letter." Most lenders now want to see three years of balance sheets and accounts, which in many cases are not up to date.

"At best, they are asking for an accountant's detailed analysis of the person's circumstances and prospects," said Mr Darby.

The self-employed who can demonstrate consistent growth in income are in the clear. But those whose income declined in the past two years may have difficulty in arranging a mortgage.

"Lots of people are being turned down for mortgages," said Mike Walters of the broker. "Even when all the written criteria are fulfilled and the mortgage is approved by one underwriter, another underwriter may make a second check and refuse the mortgage."

Most lenders now want to see three years of balance sheets and accounts before granting mortgages

lending criteria tended to be more lenient.

Nationwide, which once offered two-and-a-half times income for home loans, now concentrates on a borrower's outgoings before deciding how much to lend.

"Basically, lenders want to be sure that borrowers can afford the mortgage after all their other outgoings," said the Halifax.

"The self-employed should not have a problem if they have been trading for three years and can offer enough information to show the security of their business is consistent."

"If their income has gone down recently, we would ask their accountant for an explanation before making a decision."

Abbey National will settle for two years' accounts and an accountant's projection.

"We do not specifically discriminate against the self-employed, but we look at their accounts more carefully than in the past and require them to fill in a budget planner," said a spokeswoman. She admitted that at one time budget planners were only used in marginal cases.

"All lenders are being more careful about lending at the moment. We owe it to our



customers and shareholders to be prudent.

"Instead of accepting the income of a borrower, there is much more analysis of balance sheets and accounts than before. If someone submitted accounts which were not prepared by a qualified accountant, their application for a

loan would probably be refused," the Abbey spokeswoman said.

There is growing concern that the accounts of many self-employed are prepared by unqualified people.

"Some self-employed people are being duped into thinking they are paying a qualified

accountant, who may just be a book-keeper attaching a string of initials after his name, and charging an astronomical fee," said Mike Walters.

"It may only come to light when a mortgage application is thrown out because the lender found the accountant is not genuinely qualified."

National Savings prove better than unit trusts

By Sara McConnell



Barnes: volatile times

NATIONAL Savings, in the news this week for giving building societies a run for their money, has also provided something of a challenge to the unit trust industry over the last five years.

Investors who put up to £5,000 in National Savings index-linked or fixed interest savings certificates just before the 1987 crash and who cash them in as they mature this year could find that their return is more than double what they would have got if the same money had been invested in a unit trust.

Nearly 3,000 people hold either Fourth Issue index-linked savings certificates or 33rd issue fixed interest certificates which will mature next month. National Savings Fourth Issue index-linked certificates bought in July 1987 are maturing now. A total of £16 million was invested in July 1987 and £17.5 million came in the next month. With inflation standing at 4.4 per cent in both months but predicted to rise, the certificates offered a safe return of 5.48 per cent tax free. Anyone who invested the maximum of £5,000 in the

certificates on July 1, 1987 would have seen their holding grow to £8,241, a rise of 64.8 per cent, National Savings said.

Certificates held for five years qualify for the maximum return of inflation plus 4.04 per cent, but any not cashed in when the five years are up will only earn a miserly 0.5 per cent above inflation — 4.4 per cent currently.

If the £5,000 had been invested in a gilts and fixed income unit trust, the best

performing sector, at the beginning of August 1987 it would have grown to an average of £6,668 by the beginning of July this year, according to statistics from Micropal. Best performer in this sector was Abbey Capital Reserve, worth £7,929. By contrast, an investment in Invesco Preference Shares Trust would be worth £5,096.95.

Those with money in the most volatile sector, commodity and energy, would have come badly unstuck, as their investment would have been worth an average of just £2,696.30, a fall of nearly 50 per cent. A £5,000 investment with the worst performer, Waverley Australasian Gold, would be worth just £741.31. Paul Barnes, at Micropal said: "Markets in general have been very volatile over this time and if you have an investment in a risky fund like Australasian or Commodity and Energy, there are extreme variations." More cautious investors with £1,000 to invest five years ago would also have done better to put their money in National Savings or the building society.

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Life insurance clients to be told of charges

By Sara McConnell

INVESTORS will be able to find out how much of their life assurance premiums go in charges and expenses instead of being invested, if new rules published this week are implemented. However, any figure given for charges could be misleading because it assumes people do not cash in their policy early, when more goes in expenses.

Under new rules published simultaneously by the Securities and Investments Board and the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation, life offices will have to make sure their salesmen supply potential policyholders with a document detailing the "key features" of the policy. This must be handed over before a proposal form is signed. Companies must tell investors how much of their premiums will be deducted for charges and expenses, including commission.

The same calculation must also be shown as a percentage reduction in the investment return on the policy. The figure life offices will have to



Sceptical: Julia Liesching has doubts on growth rates

give is a standard one, not directly related to a policyholder's own circumstances.

The wording companies will have to use is: "Not all of your money will be used to provide you with benefits under the policy. As with other savings contracts, some of your money will go to meet our expenses. These include such things as marketing, administration and investment management costs."

It adds: "The expenses are higher in the early years but if you held your policy for the full 10 years and if each year we achieved an investment return of 10% then on average the overall effect of our current expenses would be about the same as if you had deducted 10% from every pound you had paid us." Companies will be able to assume an investment return of 9 per cent a year to work out how much will actually be invested after charges and expenses have

been deducted. Julia Liesching, Laitro's chief policy and administration officer, said that if companies used their own growth rates it would be difficult to know whether they were using comparable figures.

She rejected the idea that the "pence in the pound" expenses deduction was misleading because it did not show that expenses were higher in the early years of the policy. "This information should be preceded by a table of surrender values showing how much investors will lose if they cash in the policy in the first five years," she said.

Investors will get a breakdown of how much they will have to pay in charges in their specific case either with the cancellation notice, or before, if they ask for it. However, there will be no way to compare the expenses of different life offices except if investors shop around.

More frank words over franc deals

From Mr Peter Marsh

Sir, Following my letter to you last week (Frank words over franc deals) I decided to order my French franc notes and travellers' cheques through my local National Westminster branch in Mortimer.

I picked up the currency and cheques to find that, for the currency I was charged 3.5 per cent and the cheques 2 per cent commission. These were the figures I had expected, having previously checked what the charges would be. But what was this "chgs 2.25" I had on my advice slip for the cheques?

I rang the branch to ask again for the charges to buy travellers' cheques. With a minimum of £4.50 I was told. When asked about the £2.25 charges I was not

given an immediate answer. I was told eventually that I, the customer, had to pay for the postage of these cheques from another branch. This little incidental payment I had not been told about on two previous occasions. What a wonderful money-saver for the bank.

Like many institutions, banks seem to be becoming very economical with the truth when dealing with the public about their charges. Have they anything to be embarrassed about or wish to hide?

After reviewing the situation my bank manager has decided to refund the commission and charges. Another rip off has been averted. Yours faithfully, PETER MARSH, Church Cottage, Sulhamstead Abbots, Reading, Berks.

British Gas defends quarterly direct debits

From Mr Peter Barley

Sir, I have recently read in your newspaper, letters published from customers of this region regarding the quarterly direct debit method of payment for gas bills. I would like to assure you that we continually endeavour to improve our standard of service and to take into account our customers' preferences and views.

As part of our continuing commitment to the customer, we have added quarterly direct debit to our methods of payment for gas. This was introduced in early 1991, although we recognise that there are still areas for improvement, notably those referred to in your readers' letters. We are progressing these items and plan to introduce them at the end of September.

Also, we have a wide range of methods of payment, designed to meet the needs of our customers. These include the gas payment plan, with the ability for customers to make payments on a weekly, fort-

nightly or monthly basis. This method is designed to spread the cost of gas usage evenly through the year, and removes the worry of large winter bills.

Under the monthly gas payment plan, a customer can select from a range of payment dates the one which suits them best. After the end of August, we will be able to offer our customers a wider selection of payment dates.

I hope this letter answers questions raised regarding direct debits. I will be pleased to hear from any readers who would like to contribute their views on payment methods available through British Gas South Eastern and from anyone wishing to find out more about gas payment schemes. Please write to me at the address below.

Yours faithfully, PETER BARLEY, Customer Relations Manager, British Gas (South Eastern), Segas House, Katharine Street, Croydon.

Insurance rates provoke anger

From Mr Stewart Campbell

Sir, Letters on house insurance reminded me to write to you about the high cost of being realistic about house contents values.

Keen rates are quoted for what I take to be average values. For example a three-bedroom house is taken to have contents value at £30,000. However, my wife and I recently valued our contents at £50,000 - new for old. When we asked for insurance to this value, our annual premium increased from £93 to £323! An increase in premium of 247 per cent for an increase in insured value of only 66 per cent is that fair?

Yours faithfully, STEWART CAMPBELL, 4 Dovecot Loan, Edinburgh.

From Mr Alan Kennard

Sir, Following Sara McConnell's recent comments about increases in household insurance, you might be interested in my own example.

In July 1991, I transferred my contents and buildings insurance to the Norwich Union under their 55-plus policy - for those aged 55 and over - at an annual premium of £457.92. I have just received the renewal notice for 1992-3, which calls for a premium of £721.14, a 57 per cent increase. No claim has been made under this policy.

Yours faithfully, ALAN KENNARD, Alan Kennard Associates, New House, 67 Hatton Garden, ECI.

Pension plan flawed

From Mr L.F. Perkins

Sir, I am concerned about the arrangement whereby state pensions are increased in April in line with rate of inflation "read" in the previous September.

I would imagine that the percentage of 4.1 per cent last fixed was on the basis of the increase which I incurred during the year to September in buying a "parcel" of goods from my already taxed income. Therefore my gross income, as a standard rate taxpayer, needed to buy those goods would also have had to be proportionately higher.

However, from April last, my state pension rose 4.1 per cent gross, leaving my net increase proportionately lower. Have I belatedly uncovered a flaw in the system, please?

Yours faithfully, L.F. PERKINS, Meadowside, The Court Garden, Arlington, Gloucester.

Don't bring it in... it'll increase the contents premium by 300%



INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
Ordinary Dep A/c	2.85	2.85	2.12 none/none 7 day
Fixed Term Deposits			
Barclays	6.00	6.00	25,000-50,000 1 mth 071-626 1567
Lloyds	6.00	6.00	25,000-50,000 3 mth 071-626 1567
Midland	6.00	6.00	2,500-10,000 1 mth 0745 523555
Midland	6.00	6.00	10,000-50,000 1 mth 0745 523555
Midland	6.00	6.00	25,000-50,000 3 mth 071-726 1000
Midland	6.00	6.00	25,000-50,000 3 mth 071-726 1000

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
Bank of Scotland	6.00	6.00	2,500 none 031-442 7777
Barclays	6.00	6.00	2,500 none 0800 258881
Barclays	6.00	6.00	2,500 none 071 626 6543
Barclays	6.00	6.00	2,500 none 071 626 6543
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10.3% gross fixed.

Whether you're a tax payer or not.

The new Britannia Fixed Rate Bond enables you to have your interest paid without the tax deducted whether or not you pay income tax.

If you don't pay tax, we can pay you 10.3% gross, subject to the necessary certification.

On the other hand, if you are a tax payer you can have your interest paid net

of 7.87% with income tax deducted in the normal way. Alternatively, you can have it paid gross at 10.3% courtesy of Britannia (Isle of Man) Limited, our wholly owned offshore subsidiary. You pay the income tax at a later date.

Whichever way, you'll get an interest rate that's not only extremely attractive, but fixed until 31st July 1993 - all for a minimum investment of £5,000.

Understandably for an account of this nature, no withdrawals are permitted during the term. As you might also expect,

it is a strictly limited issue and operates on a first come, first served basis.

For further details, call our free helpline between 9am and 5pm Monday to Saturday and between 9am and 12 noon Sunday.

And make sure you choose the best investment route for your money. The Britannia Fixed Rate Bond.

Freephone 0800 252579

Britannia Building Society

TAX-FREE INVESTMENT IN FAMOUS BRITISH COMPANIES

Save & Prosper's Managed Portfolio Personal Equity Plan enables you to invest up to £8,000 (a couple can invest £16,000 each) in famous British companies and not have to pay a penny in tax on the stock market returns.

It gives you a ready-made portfolio which, as you can see from the current holdings, is truly blue chip.

Our investment is actively managed by our experts, to take advantage of changing market opportunities.

Our Managed Portfolio PEP has consistently been one of the top performing* and best selling PEP portfolios over the past three years.

With low inflation and the possibility of further falls in interest rates we believe the economy will continue to show signs of recovery. Now could be a good time to invest in the shares of UK companies. So start your 1992/93 PEP now and benefit from tax-free savings throughout the tax year.

For details talk to your financial adviser, post the coupon or ring us free on 0800 282 101 - now.

*SOURCE: The Wm Company

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So that we may call and offer further information.

SAVE & PROSPER

THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

Homosexuals looking for life quotes face problems

Homosexual men are finding it increasingly hard to buy life insurance cover but insurers could find they are behind the times in perceiving gay men to be the only high-risk group.

The eighth International Conference of Aids, held in Amsterdam this week, was told that, in most places, the disease had moved out of the original high-risk groups and that, since the beginning of this year, nearly half of the one million new cases had been women.

Insurers are in many cases reluctant even to quote for life insurance for gay men, even if they are in a long-term relationship. Of more than 20 companies asked to supply a quotation for a gay man, only seven gave quotes, and some were reluctant.

According to the Association of British Insurers, life offices do not operate blanket exclusions and will treat each case on its merits. John Wagstaff, of the ABI's insurance council, says: "I accept there will be additional premiums, but most homosexuals would be able to get cover." Ivan

Insurance companies' attitudes are different from the industry's official policy, says Jill Insley

Maslow, a financial adviser who specialises in helping gay clients, disagrees. "Insurance companies, when talking to the press say they will insure gays, but the truth is they don't," he says.

Alastair Butt, a consultant with Brooks Macdonald Gayer, the independent financial adviser, draws similar conclusions from his experience. Mr Butt has been trying to arrange life insurance and dread disease cover for a homosexual client, a professional man who is currently single but who previously had a long-term relationship. Scottish Amicable and Scottish Provident have turned the client down for life insurance, and Abbey Life and Profitic have refused him dread disease cover.

Mr Butt says: "I can't think of instances where gay men get loaded premiums. They just get turned down." The

table illustrates some of the difficulties. Homosexuals in a steady relationship may be able to obtain cover, albeit at more expensive premium rates. But anyone without a permanent partner, and particularly those suspected of leading promiscuous lifestyles will face grave difficulties arranging insurance.

Some companies automatically reject applications from homosexuals if they are so identified before the initial quotation stage. Zurich Life's chief underwriter Ray Bone says: "If we know a person is gay prior to quotation, we don't quote. If as a result of routine normal underwriting we learn that an applicant is homosexual, we could quote, and we could decline."

Some people may be tempted to give untruthful answers

to the questions on the insurance proposal form. Although this might seem to provide an answer to the immediate problem of obtaining insurance cover, it is ill-advised because it makes it easy for the insurance company to refuse to pay out in the event of death, even if the death is unrelated to Aids.

Richard Legg, a gay man who recently launched Life Benefit Resources, a company which helps terminally ill people to sell their life policies, would prefer to see insurance companies charge homosexual men more than refuse to insure them. He says: "My own experience tells me that a gay man at this point in time has a rough time trying to get life insurance."

The Terence Higgins Trust is concerned that it is assumed that all homosexuals are promiscuous. Peter Roth, chairman of the trust's insurance working party, says: "Our basic concern is that insurance companies should approach life underwriting on the basis of individual behaviour, rather than on membership of any group."

Some gay men are burdened with heavily loaded



Ivan Maslow: 'Insurance companies, when talking to the press say they will insure gays, but the truth is they don't'

premiums even though their sex lives may be less promiscuous than that of heterosexuals with cheaper insurance premiums. Mr Butt would like to see more insurers offering policies with Aids exclusion clauses, stipulating that they will not pay out in the event of Aids-related death. "My clients would rather have such an exclusion and be able to have

such cover." Mr Maslow agrees. "I would relish more Aids exclusion policies because so many of my clients know they are going to stay HIV negative," he says adding that gays are aware of the threat of Aids.

Commercial Union offers life insurance with an Aids exclusion clause. Its Select Term is less expensive than

ordinary life insurance, but is still subject to strict underwriting which may exclude homosexual applicants.

Mr Wagstaff says that such Aids exclusion policies might seem the simple answer, but in practice they present difficulties. The policies cannot be used as security for a mortgage, and there is still scope for argument over the true

cause of death. Aids leaves the body vulnerable to attack from other diseases, but is rarely recorded as the cause of death itself, which can cause problems when insurance companies decide whether to pay out.

Gays face fewer difficulties when taking out endowment savings policies which include an element of insurance.

Term insurance for male non-smoker who will be 30 on next birthday, tested HIV negative. The sum assured is £30,000 with premiums paid on a monthly basis.

COMPANY	MARRIED heterosexual	SINGLE heterosexual	GAY WITH ONE GAY WITH FIVE permanent partner partners or more per year
Cannon Lincoln	£13.85	£13.85	£28.15 decline
General Portfolio	£10	£10	£20.83 decline
GRE	£13.43	£13.43	£27.87 decline
Norwich Union	£13.70	£13.70	£28.70 decline
Prudential	£13.34	£13.34	£28.60 decline
Zurich Life	£12	£12	£20 decline
Zurich Life	From min £11.85 to max £13.25		From min £24.72 to max £24.27

* Premiums for policy renewable after ten years.
NB: Figures based on limited information. All the offices quoted say they would underwrite each application on an individual basis taking medical examinations and lifestyle considerations into consideration.

Investor confidence takes another knock

By Liz Dolan

STOCK MARKET uncertainty has prompted a fall in investor confidence for the second month running, according to the latest monthly figures from Pearl, the insurance company.

The Pearl Investor confidence index, which is compiled during the first half of each month, fell 6.5 this month, after a 7.8 decline in June. This means that the index, which started at 100 in March last year, has fallen to 85.2 from the 14-month high of 99.6 that was achieved in the post-election euphoria of early May.

The fall in confidence has been most pronounced among company directors and people in social categories A and B, traditionally per-

ceived as the most accurate bellwethers of investment performance. Company directors who expect the market to be higher in a year's time fell from 59 per cent to 39 per cent over the month, the lowest level recorded since the index started. AEs expecting an improvement fell from 47 per cent in June to 38 per cent.

People in the lowest socio-economic categories tend to be more stable in their attitudes to investment, possibly because they have less day to day awareness of prevailing trends.

Confidence among manual workers fell only 3 percentage points in July, to 24 per cent. Martin Fox, Pearl's general manager of marketing, said the results showed that residual optimism following the general election had been premature.

Despite the general reservations expressed about the health of the stock market, there has been no decline in the number of people planning to invest in equity-related products. Seventeen per cent of those questioned intend to invest directly in shares over the next year. This is the same level as in May and one percentage point higher than in June.

The number of people planning to invest in personal equity plans has remained constant at 7 per cent in all three months. In the case of unit trusts, 6 per cent of those questioned now plan to invest in them, a 50 per cent increase on June's 4 per cent and one percentage point higher than in May.

However, more than twice as many people expect to buy Exempt Special Savings Plans (15 per cent) than to buy a PEP, a unit trust, or an investment trust (6 per cent). Investment trusts also increased in popularity, rising from 6 per cent in May and 4 per cent in June to 8 per cent this month, although this is probably related to National Savings' successful launch, on July 7, of the first option bond.

CHANGING JOBS?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PENSION?

Find out what your choices are by ringing us on our free Moneyline.

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SAFE & PROSPER
THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

FIRST Option Bond

With a new rate of 7.25% net, our Bond should still be your first option.

If you're the kind of person who likes to keep their options open when it comes to their savings, take a look at National Savings FIRST Option Bond.

It's a savings bond tailor-made for basic rate taxpayers.

We call it FIRST because it stands for 'Fixed Interest Rate Savings Tax-paid.'

The new rate of 9.67% is guaranteed for the first 12 months you hold your bond. We pay the basic rate tax on your behalf, which means you get 7.25% net. For instance, £10,000

becomes £10,725 in one year, tax-paid.

On bonds of £20,000 or over held for a full 12 months, you get a bonus which pushes the net rate up to 7.55%. So £20,000 becomes £21,510 in one year, tax paid.

At each anniversary of the purchase of your bond, we write and tell you what the rate is for the next year.

Then you have the option to leave your money in or take it out. To make our FIRST Option Bond your first option, all you need is a cheque, a pen, and an envelope.

be crossed and made payable to

"NATIONAL SAVINGS (FIRST OPTION BONDS)" - using CAPITAL letters for this part of the cheque. Please write your name and address on the back of your cheque. Post your completed application form and cheque to National Savings (FIRST Option Bonds), Freeport GW3276, Glasgow G58 1BR. Or, to ensure rapid delivery attach a first class stamp.

If, before applying, you would like a leaflet and prospectus phone us free on 0800 88 11 88 between 9am and 9pm, seven days a week.

Or, from 28 July, you can pick them up at your Post Office.

TO APPLY

Use the form below to buy FIRST Option Bonds by post - we pay the postage. Your cheque should

NATIONAL SAVINGS

To: FIRST Option Bonds, National Savings, Glasgow G58 1BR

1 I/we apply for a bond (subject to the terms of the relevant prospectus) to the value of £ (Minimum purchase £1,000) For National Savings use only

Please use CAPITAL letters

2 Surname M (Mr Mrs Miss Ms)

All forenames

Address

Postcode Day Month Year

Date of birth

If bond is to be held jointly with one other person please also complete section 3.

3 Surname M (Mr Mrs Miss Ms)

All forenames

Address

Postcode Day Month Year

Date of birth

For National Savings use only

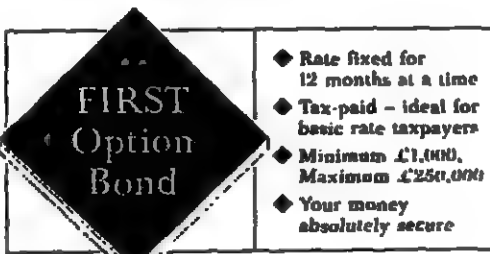
Signature(s)

Date

Daytime telephone number (useful if there is a query)

TM 553

This form cannot be used to open a trust holding. Please write to FIRST Option Bonds, National Savings, Glasgow



- ◆ Rate fixed for 12 months at a time
- ◆ Tax-paid - ideal for basic rate taxpayers
- ◆ Minimum £1,000, Maximum £250,000
- ◆ Your money absolutely secure

FIRST Option Bonds are sold subject to the terms of the prospectus. They may only be purchased by postal application.

When we receive your newspaper application and cheque we will send you your FIRST Option Bond together with a prospectus, normally within two weeks. If on receiving the bond and prospectus you wish to cancel your purchase, tell us in writing within 28 days and we will refund your money. No interest is payable on a cancelled purchase. Please note that the 28 days option to cancel applies only to purchases made by newspaper applications.

At each anniversary of purchase we will write and tell you the guaranteed rate for the following 12 months. You then have the option of leaving your money invested for a further 12 months, in which case you need take no action. Or, if you prefer, you can cash in your bond. There is no penalty for a repayment, or part repayment, at an anniversary date. If you cash in between anniversary dates you will be repaid the most recent anniversary value of your bond plus net interest at half the fixed rate for the period from the last anniversary. No interest is earned on repayments before the first anniversary.

The guaranteed gross interest for the first 12 months you hold your bond is currently 9.67%, which becomes 7.25% after deduction of tax at the basic rate (currently 25%). Higher rate taxpayers will need to pay whatever additional tax is due. If you are a non-taxpayer or pay tax at a lower rate than the basic rate you can apply to your tax office for a refund.

Any individual bond with a value which does not fall below £20,000 between the date of purchase and the first anniversary will earn a bonus of 0.4% gross (0.3% net). We will tell you what your next bonus rate will be when we write to you at each anniversary. FIRST Option Bonds with these terms can be withdrawn from sale without notice. We can only accept your application if the above terms are still on offer at the time we receive your application and cheque.

Portfolio

PLATINUM
For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 29).

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+4	-4	+2	-8	+4		
2	+3	-1	+2	-2	+3		
3	+4	-3	+4	-3	+5		
4	+6	-2	+3	-6	+2		
5	+6	-4	+4	-2	+5		
6	+2	-2	+3	-1	+3		
7	+8	-1	+7	-3	+8		
8	+6	-4	+4	-5	+2		
9	+6	-4	+5	-3	+4		
10	+6	-2	+6	-2	+8		
11	+6	-2	+7	-2	+7		
12	+4	-5	+5	-4	+4		
13	+7	-3	+5	-3	+7		
14	+2	-2	+2	-1	+4		
15	+5	-4	+4	-6	+2		
16	+3	-4	+4	-4	+4		
17	+5	-5	+3	-5	+3		
18	+6	-3	+4	-3	+5		
19	+2	-2	+3	-1	+2		
20	+5	-4	+3	-6	+2		
21	+6	-4	+3	-2	+5		
22	+2	-1	+2	-2	+3		
23	+6	-3	+5	-4	+7		
24	+2	-3	+2	-3	+3		
25	+5	-6	+2	-4	+2		
26	+3	-5	+3	-3	+5		
27	+6	-2	+6	-3	+9		
28	+2	-2	+2	-1	+4		
29	+5	-4	+3	-6	+2		
30	+3	-3	+2	-3	+3		
31	+3	-4	+5	-2	+8		
32	+3	-1	+3	-2	+2		
33	+8	-2	+6	-4	+7		
34	+5	-4	+2	-6	+2		
35	+5	-3	+3	-5	+2		
36	+6	-2	+6	-3	+7		
37	+2	-2	+1	-2	+4		
38	+7	-2	+6	-3	+8		
39	+4	-3	+4	-3	+6		
40	+6	-3	+5	-4	+8		
41	+9	-9	+9	-6	+2		
42	+4	-4	+5	-3	+6		
43	+6	-1	+6	-3	+7		
44	+2	-1	+1	-2	+3		

THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 25 1992

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 25 1992

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add these prices to your running total for the week and compare against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it is a share of the total weekly price money, you will follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Share Price
1	British Gp.	Newsprint/Pub	100
2	Unilever	Food	100
3	Shell	Oil	100
4	British Gp.	Building/Rds	100
5	British Gp.	Industrial	100
6	British Gp.	Property	100
7	British Gp.	Industrial	100
8	British Gp.	Chemical	100
9	British Gp.	Industrial	100
10	British Gp.	Industrial	100
11	British Gp.	Industrial	100
12	British Gp.	Industrial	100
13	British Gp.	Industrial	100
14	British Gp.	Industrial	100
15	British Gp.	Industrial	100
16	British Gp.	Industrial	100
17	British Gp.	Industrial	100
18	British Gp.	Industrial	100
19	British Gp.	Industrial	100
20	British Gp.	Industrial	100
21	British Gp.	Industrial	100
22	British Gp.	Industrial	100
23	British Gp.	Industrial	100
24	British Gp.	Industrial	100
25	British Gp.	Industrial	100
26	British Gp.	Industrial	100
27	British Gp.	Industrial	100
28	British Gp.	Industrial	100
29	British Gp.	Industrial	100
30	British Gp.	Industrial	100
31	British Gp.	Industrial	100
32	British Gp.	Industrial	100
33	British Gp.	Industrial	100
34	British Gp.	Industrial	100
35	British Gp.	Industrial	100
36	British Gp.	Industrial	100
37	British Gp.	Industrial	100
38	British Gp.	Industrial	100
39	British Gp.	Industrial	100
40	British Gp.	Industrial	100
41	British Gp.	Industrial	100
42	British Gp.	Industrial	100
43	British Gp.	Industrial	100
44	British Gp.	Industrial	100

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

Please take into account any minor signs

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Total

Mr Stuart Perrin, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, won the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum yesterday.

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

BREWERS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

BUILDING, ROADS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

Losses trimmed at close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began July 13. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day Monday. Settlement day August 3. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

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1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

Portfolio

PLATINUM

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WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£4,000

Claims required for £81 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

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1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

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1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

Famous golfers forced to take a back seat

Dentist's amateur course record leads the seniors

By MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Noon, a dentist aged 56, yesterday overshadowed the legendary figures of golf by capturing the halfway lead in the British Seniors' Open at Royal Lytham and St Anne's.

His second round of 66 not only equalled the lowest score by an amateur on the famous Lancashire links but also hoisted him ahead of the likes of Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Bob Charles and Neil Coles.

"I'm astonished, amazed," Noon said. "I played in a bit of a daze and I don't really know how it happened. It was a very happy moment for me."

Moreover, as Master golfers, not to mention millionaires Palmer and Player, retired to the practice range, Noon was obliged to slip quietly away to his dental surgery one mile along the road for an evening session.

"I also worked on Thursday morning before the first round," he said. "But I booked myself out for Saturday just in case I made the halfway cut."

Noon has been a member at Royal Lytham since 1957, during which time he has won 39 club competitions. He played to scratch for approximately 15 years but in more recent times has struggled to keep to a three handicap.

"I've had a poor year," he said. "I've been scoring in the 80s. I'm known as the old Lytham nudger because I'm one of the leaders of this

world." His previous best score at Royal Lytham and St Anne's was a 69 in the Captains Prize in 1969, the same year that Tony Jacklin won the Open Championship on the course.

Noon's golf during his 66 was more reminiscent of that played by Severiano Ballesteros during his Open win in 1979 when the Spaniard was christened the "Car Park" champion.

Noon was out in 31 with three birdies and one eagle in five holes from the fifth. His adventures began when he turned back into the wind but he kept his touch on the greens.

His son, Richard, who is caddy for him, advised his father that he was aiming too far left on his putts. Noon adjusted his stance and, although it felt awkward, he single-putted 12 times in all, including each of the last five holes.

He holed from nine feet at the 18th to equal the amateur record for the course, established by Rodney Foster, the Walker Cup player, in 1968.

Noon revealed that for the past two weeks he has hit two buckets of balls rather than one during his lunch-time breaks. He will rub shoulders this morning on the practice range with the legends, his 36-hole score of 138, four under par, having given him a two shot advantage over Charles (69) and Coles (71), with whom he will play.

"I'm apprehensive about playing like an idiot," he said. "But I'm thrilled to have the chance."

Charles, who won the Open at Royal Lytham in 1963, was out in 30. He holed from 45 feet for a two at the first and had four birdies in succession from the 6th. The New Zealanders were less consistent following the turn when he was punished for his sorties into the rough.

Michael Murphy, aged 59, the professional at Ballylough, near Dublin, was seven under par for seven holes from the 6th. It included a hole in one at the 9th where he used an eight iron. He finished with a 68 for 143.

Palmer holed from 25 feet and 30 feet on the last two greens for a 72 and 142. Player, however, struggled, taking 76 for 149.

LEADING SCORES (GB and Ireland unless stated): 138 M Noon (72, 66); 140 R Coles (69, 71); 141 P Ballesteros (70, 71); 142 J Palmer (73, 69); 143 M Murphy (59, 70); 144 R Charles (69, 75); 145 G Player (76, 73); 146 J Coles (71, 70); 147 B Ballesteros (70, 71); 148 J Palmer (73, 69); 149 G Player (76, 73); 150 J Coles (71, 70); 151 J Coles (71, 70); 152 J Coles (71, 70); 153 J Coles (71, 70); 154 J Coles (71, 70); 155 J Coles (71, 70); 156 J Coles (71, 70); 157 J Coles (71, 70); 158 J Coles (71, 70); 159 J Coles (71, 70); 160 J Coles (71, 70); 161 J Coles (71, 70); 162 J Coles (71, 70); 163 J Coles (71, 70); 164 J Coles (71, 70); 165 J Coles (71, 70); 166 J Coles (71, 70); 167 J Coles (71, 70); 168 J Coles (71, 70); 169 J Coles (71, 70); 170 J Coles (71, 70); 171 J Coles (71, 70); 172 J Coles (71, 70); 173 J Coles (71, 70); 174 J Coles (71, 70); 175 J Coles (71, 70); 176 J Coles (71, 70); 177 J Coles (71, 70); 178 J Coles (71, 70); 179 J Coles (71, 70); 180 J Coles (71, 70); 181 J Coles (71, 70); 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Englishman on target to equal record in German grand prix with eighth victory

Mansell turns race qualifying into his one-man show

FROM NORMAN HOWELL IN HOCKENHEIM

IT WAS business as usual as the Nigel Mansell roadshow rolled on yesterday. The Englishman, poised to equal Ayrton Senna's record of eight Formula One race victories in a season, ran away with the first qualifying session of the German grand prix here. He is showing such commanding form, indeed, that even his rivals are singing his praises.

If that first session is anything to go by, Mansell, driving his Williams-Renault, will lead for all 45 laps tomorrow, retain the title he won last year, further extend his ever-widening championship lead and the inevitable adulation will pour forth once again. There is just no stopping him.

Mansell finished two seconds ahead of the Brazilian, Senna, who, driving a McLaren-Honda, was his nearest rival on the day. Senna, the world champion, is already so far behind in the points table as to present only a theoretical threat.

Praise for Mansell came yesterday from the unlikely direction of Ron Dennis, who is the head of the McLaren

organisation. "He is driving brilliantly," Dennis said. "But his is also a very powerful, difficult car, too. Indeed, it's like a stallion, and Mansell has been quite brilliant at riding it. I think that a lot of people underestimated his driving ability."

Mansell is even beginning to embarrass his team-mate, Riccardo Patrese, who until recently was competitive enough to need a reminder from the Williams management that Mansell was the team No. 1.

The leading two qualifiers were both in a jovial, even jocular, mood yesterday after the timed session, which was held in hot and difficult conditions.

The Englishman made light of an incident involving Olivier Grouillard, the Tyrrell driver, who appeared to block him on one of his fast laps, while Senna managed to joke about the large time differential Mansell had inflicted on him.

"It's not so bad really. We are fast in the straights," Senna said. "It's down to driving style. I have a narrow head, it

has less wind resistance. But in the corners, I go slower. I have a light head, you see, no downforce."

Mansell admitted that he had to work hard for his time and had encountered a few "hairy moments", as he called them, navigating through the debris left by the dozen or so cars that came to grief in the newly designed chicane before the Ostkurve.

"It is very bumpy. Whichever way you point the car, to take the bend properly, it just gets spat out sideways," Mansell said. "It's a bump, and it sort of takes off. It is dangerous because I just couldn't keep my feet on the pedals, they just slithered sideways."

Senna, too, was critical of the track, and he does not even have the benefit of active ride, which, in theory at least, should reduce the effects of the bumps.

"It is a bit less dangerous than it was last week, but it's still not right," he said. "When you come in at 230kph and then have to slow down to second gear, obviously things are going to happen," he said.

And they did, with Johnny Herbert, Gianni Morbidelli, Alessandro Zanardi and Stefano Modena all experiencing difficulties yesterday.

Dennis's comments about Mansell were praise indeed, coming from a man whose team has had a disappointing season so far, and who seems likely to lose his engine manufacturer, Honda, and his best driver, Senna, at the end of the year.

Still, Dennis seems cheerful, possibly because he believes that both Senna and Honda will stay, even if McLaren needs a transitional year before the team can again be competitive.

Senna yesterday, for the first time, admitted two important points: that his future is linked with Honda, and that he would be prepared to have a transitional year, if it meant

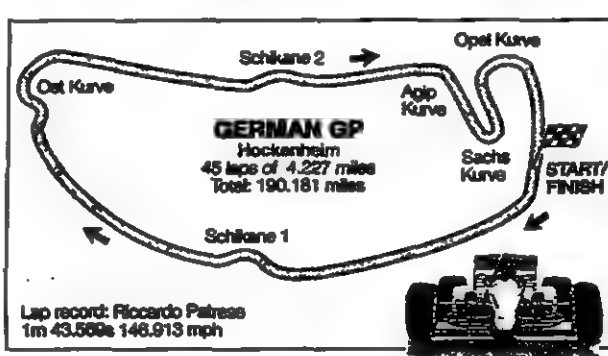


Thought-provoking: Senna considers the task ahead in qualifying yesterday

having a truly competitive car in 1994.

After the startling news from Japan last week that Honda was considering pulling out of Formula One, all of this points to Dennis and Honda having made up their differences.

Certainly, something is afoot. Senna's father is here and he only joins the circuit when contract time comes around.



Speedie holds up completion of Shearer's transfer

BY IAN ROSS

THE transfer of Alan Shearer from Southampton to Blackburn Rovers, at £4 million, the most expensive in the history of British football is expected to be completed this weekend.

Although the England international forward indicated his willingness to accept Blackburn's offer of a lucrative three-year contract on Thursday evening, the deal was delayed until after David Speedie, Blackburn's former Scottish international player, thought over a move to the south-coast club.

Initially, Speedie declined Southampton's offer but he has since said that he was willing to discuss personal terms with Ian Branfoot, the Southampton manager. Whether or not Speedie becomes part of the deal, Shearer will complete his move to Ewood Park within 48 hours.

Graeme Souness, the manager of Liverpool, is expected to make a formal bid for Paul Stewart, the Tottenham midfielder, within the next few days.

Stewart, who is valued at £2 million, has indicated a desire to return to his native north-west and with Ray Houghton, the Republic of Ireland international expected to sever his ties with the Merseyside club this weekend by joining either Aston Villa or Chelsea.

Souness has sufficient capital to fund the deal. Both clubs have agreed a £900,000 fee with Liverpool for the Republic of Ireland player, aged 30.

Peter Reid, the Manchester City manager, flies to Holland on Monday in a last-ditch attempt to sign the Dutch international midfielder, Arthur Numan, for £1.5 million. City thought they had signed Numan from Twente Enschede weeks ago for £1.2 million, but there were wrangles over personal terms. Reid has increased his bid to £1.5 million and attends a transfer tribunal in Holland on Monday. PSV Eindhoven are also interested in Numan and have offered Twente around £800,000.

The Dutch players' union are putting pressure on Numan, aged 21, to stay in Holland, saying that will increase his chance of winning more international caps. Reid said: "That is nonsense. We would certainly release him for international duty. It would be written into his contract."

If the Numan deal falls through, Reid will challenge Liverpool for the signature of Stewart, who was at Maine Road for over a year before his £1.7 million move to Spurs in June 1988.

Stewart is anxious for a move back north. His wife and two children have been living in Blackpool for the last two years and Stewart commutes north to see them.

The German international forward, Jürgen Klinsmann, has joined Monaco, instead of Paris Saint-Germain, from Internazionale for an undisclosed fee.

Everton admit big debts

EVERTON revealed yesterday that they have debts totalling £3.6 million. They lost more than £2 million in the year up to last May, largely due to a rise of £1 million in players' wages.

Everton finished twelfth in the first division in a disappointing season when gates averaged little more than

23,000 — roughly half Goodison Park's capacity. The club chairman, David Marsh, said he hoped increased income from the new Premier League would help to wipe out some of the debt.

Pat Nevin, the club winger signed in 1988 for £925,000, is thought to be on Newcastle United's wanted list.

RIFLE SHOOTING

Six past champions chase coveted prize

BY OUR RIFLE SHOOTING CORRESPONDENT

SIX former winners of the Queen's Prize, the most coveted award in Commonwealth shooting, will be aiming for a repeat performance in the 1992 final at Bisley today against 100 contenders for the award.

If yesterday's second stage at the short ranges was anything to go by, they have no easy task. Scores were lower than usual and the Silver Medal for second stage winner went to Andrew le Cheminant, of Jersey, with 148, two points off the maximum — and unusually without a tie-break because the rest of the 300 shooters had 147 or below.

Results, page 32

BRIDGE

British at back of pack

BRITAIN'S juniors experienced a rough ride after four days of play in the European under-25 team championship near Versailles (Albert Dormer writes).

After nine of the 22 rounds, they are sixteenth in the strongest field in the history of the competition with 121 victory points. Leading the 23 nations are Poland with 178 points, Norway on 170, Italy on 162 and Hungary with 152.

As there are 25 victory points available in each match, and some of the tough-

er fixtures behind it, Britain's team is not yet out of it. But the present placings reflect the strength in depth of the main rivals, all of whom are powerful contenders at Open as well as junior level.

Britain had been quietly fancied to take a medal position and thus qualify for the world final that it has won in the past.

The team consists of Manchester twins, Jason and Justin Hackett, Peter Dunsby, Harry Amorykakis, Danny Davis and Phil Sowter.

YACHTING

Rules seem to favour Sunstone

BY ALEX RAMSAY

THE Rolex Commodore's Cup is fast earning the reputation as the regatta nobody knows how to win.

Most of the teams are happy with the event, pleased with the courses and impressed by the organisation. The trouble starts when the crews, who feel they have done well on the water, return to base to discover the computer has awarded the race to somebody else.

With seemingly identical boats being given different ratings and therefore different handicaps and the 27-year-old Sunstone apparently invulnerable under the rules, there is a good deal of confusion over how the system actually works.

Yesterday saw the start of the Red Funnel Channel Race, the first of two off-shore races in the series. Thanks to the handicapping system, Sunstone can gain anything up to 14 hours on some of her competitors, which is a little like letting Tom and Vicky Jackson's yacht start halfway down the course and allowing them to finish on equal terms with the rest of the fleet. Who actually wins the race will depend on the vagaries of the man with the computer.

Barrett's best bet is find the big punch

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

TWO British world contenders, who have waited patiently for two years, get their chance for world titles at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester tonight.

Both face Americans for World Boxing Organisation titles: Pat Barrett, of Manchester, takes on Manning Galloway, the welterweight champion, and Derek Angol, from Gravesend, meets Tyrone Boaze, for the vacant cruiserweight title.

Although both should win, to increase Britain's tally of WBO titles to four, Barrett's is the harder job. Galloway has defended his title successfully five times outside the United States. In his 13-year career he has faced good middleweights and light-middleweights and knows enough to make

Barrett's life difficult. Barrett has a good stoppage record against southpaws, but those successes were against lightweighters. He could find the experienced and cagey champion difficult to catch.



Angol: in the mood

Unless Barrett can land the big punch that has earned him 24 inside the distance wins in 34 bouts, he could find himself trailing at the end.

The Englishman has never looked happy against clever boxers. Dwayne Swift, a slick American, exposed this failing 18 months ago in London. Swift is a friend of Galloway. Barrett must hope that age has blunted the reflexes of the champion.

Angol's opponent, on the other hand, appears to be made for him. Boaze, being short and forward-moving, should come on to Angol's punches, just as Apollo Sweet and Dee Jay did. Sweet was given a pasting and Dee Jay was knocked out in three rounds.

Even if Boaze has been the distance with high class opponents, among them Evander

Holyfield, the world heavyweight champion, and Bert Cooper, who had Holyfield in trouble, Henry Tillman and Dwight Qawi, he has not boxed for 17 months.

Angol is quite the opposite. Angry at not receiving any recognition despite being unbeaten in 26 contests and stopping 22 of his opponents, he will go looking for Boaze.

Although Boaze's durability points to the contest going the distance with the Englishman winning with the wide points margin, Angol's trainer, Frank Black, thinks his man will stop the American.

"Boaze is durable, but Derek will get to him about the seventh or eighth round," Black said. "He has been riling Derek with his comments. It's just what we needed to put Derek in the right mood."

SCHOOLS SPORT

Gresham on pioneering course in Bisley fortnight

BY CHRIS DIGHTON

AT GRESHAM School in Holt, Norfolk, is a pioneer in shooting in this country. Boys and girls from 12 to 19 years old can compete on equal terms as marksmen and, during Bisley fortnight, can even

pit their skills against adult competitors.

The school's permanent pavilion at Bisley has helped to maintain its successes. The Gresham's rifle club captain, Charlotte Lemmer, aged 18, collected this year's Reserve Cup over a distance of 300

metres and the school also won the cadet four title. Lemmer, along with Zac Mace, has also been chosen for the Athletics team, selected from those in their final year at school and which travels every August to Ottawa to take on the Canadian cadets

at the Connaught ranges. It will be the twentieth consecutive year that the school has been represented in the event.

The school has about 90 members in its rifle club and has an indoor small-bore range for the winter.

WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today	Tomorrow
CRICKET Fourth Cornhill Test match 11.0, 50 overs minimum HEADSLEY: England v Pakistan Britannia Assurance county championship 11.0, 100 overs minimum ABERDEEN: Glamorgan v Somerset CHELTENHAM COLLEGE: Gloucestershire v Sussex LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Essex LORD'S: Middlesex v Durham EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Derbyshire	CRICKET Fourth Cornhill Test match 11.0, 50 overs minimum HEADSLEY: England v Pakistan Sunday League 2.0, 40 overs PONTYPRIDD: Glamorgan v Derbyshire (1.30) CHELTENHAM COLLEGE: Gloucestershire v Sussex OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Surrey LORD'S: Middlesex v Durham (2.00) TAUNTON: Somerset v Nottinghamshire EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Derbyshire
OTHER SPORT BOXING: WBO welterweight championship: Manning Galloway (US, holder) v Pat Barrett (Manchester). WBO cruiserweight championship (vacant): Derek Angol (Gravesend) v Tyrone Boaze (US) (both at Manchester). GOLF: British Seniors Open (Royal Lytham) SHOOTING: Bisley meeting	OTHER SPORT FOOTBALL: Traditional match: Middlebrough v Celtic (for Tony Mowbray, 1.0) GOLF: British Seniors Open (Royal Lytham) MOTOR RACING: British touring car championship (Knockhill)

Clash brings danger of split loyalties

BY ALEX RAMSAY

THE 1992 Paralympic Games will mark a breakthrough for people with learning difficulties. For the first time they will have their own Games, run under the International Paralympic banner, to be held in Madrid immediately after the Games for the physically disabled close in Barcelona.

Unhappily, however, they will have to share the spotlight with the Special Olympics, an American organisation founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, which will be held in Barcelona a matter of weeks after the close of the

Paralympic Games, with a total of 12 countries scheduled to take part. Despite its name, the Special Olympics is not a part of the Olympic movement.

Roger Biggs, director of the United Kingdom Sports Association (UKSA), the organisation co-ordinating the British team for Madrid, is concerned about the effect the Special Olympics will have on the Paralympics.

"We were unaware that they were going to expand into an international event," he said. "Our worry is that it might be seen as a mini World Games

and might lead to split loyalties.

To prevent confusion in Britain, UKSA has agreed with Special Olympics: UK (SOUK) not to send a team to Barcelona and instead combine their support for the Paralympic event in Madrid, a move Biggs sees as a big step forward in co-operation for the development of sport for the mentally handicapped.

Special Olympics (Europe) realise that some athletes will be eligible to attend both events but it is not their policy to encourage participation in different tournaments.

Anglo-American challenge revived

BY JOHN WATSON

TOMORROW'S Hurlingham international day, staged at Smith's Lawn, Windsor Great Park and sponsored by Carrier, is the highlight of the calendar. The throw-in for the first (six-chukka) match, the Westchester Cup duel, is scheduled for 3pm.

This ornate trophy was won nine times by the United States and three times by Britain between 1886 and 1939. Since then it will not have been competed for as an Anglo-American challenge until tomorrow.

Since the 1920s the United States has shown an increas-

ingly formidable handicap list. However, for tomorrow's encounter, each side will deploy four-somes aggregating handicaps of 30. Howard Hipwood, commanding Britain's highest handicap of nine, will be supported by Alan Kent, William Lucas and the New Zealander Cody Forsyth, one Commonwealth man being eligible for the British squad under the old Westchester rules.

The Americans will be centred on the highly impressive C.S. Brooks duo, Owen Rinehart and Adam Snow. Rob Walton, who has also

played many English summers, will be at back with John Gobin, imported for the occasion, in the No. 1 slot.

For the second match, due to begin at 5.30, a team put together by the Hurlingham Association, captained by Julian Hipwood, with the Prince of Wales at back, will take on a Spanish quartet under the captaincy of Ignacio Domecq. UNITED STATES: 1, J. Gobin (4); 2, A. Snow (8); 3, C. Forsyth (10); 4, B. Walton (8). GREAT BRITAIN: 1, W. Lucas (6); 2, C. Forsyth (8); 3, A. Kent (7); 4, B. Walton (8).

Championship leaders routed in first innings

Millns and Boon compound the misery for Essex

By IVO TENNANT

LEICESTER (first day of three: Leicestershire won toss; Leicestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, lead Essex by 153 runs.

THERE are days, usually two or three a summer, when Essex bat in a manner that is quite out of keeping with their standing in the game. They may seek to blame the pitch for being bowled out for 75, one run more than the lowest score of the season. They will have learned, though, that it is not so indifferent as to be reported.

This is a sporting pitch, used for a Sunday League match last week and which is at times lively and inconsistent in bounce. Yet, it is not one on which the county championship leaders, 48 points ahead of the second-placed side, Leicestershire, at the start of play, should be bowled out in 23.4 overs.

Their opponents fared little better, but well enough, perhaps, to win in two days.

The championship is not yet over. Leicestershire were originally intent on using another pitch on the other side of the ground until, eyeing it yesterday morning, they felt it might turn square. They have no

spinners to speak of, Essex have Chiles and Such.

Even though the Test and County Cricket Board's inspector will not be appearing here, the club is all too aware that its pitches are not satisfactory. Two have been dug up and relaid recently.

For the most part, though, the bowling was masterly. In the case of Millns, it was pretty quick, too.

Leicestershire's captain won the toss for the tenth successive time in the championship, an important factor in a surge up the table that has taken even them by surprise.

Very soon they were 19 for five and ruminating, like Javed Miandad, that there are days when luck has no virtue.

Foster, who has no luck at all — he is to have another exploratory knee operation next Thursday — bowled beautifully in this period, having Whitaker and Smith caught at first slip and Benson at second slip.

Briers and Potter went to blot and, had Foster held Boon in his follow-through, Leicestershire would have been 19 for six and as pilloried as Essex.

After that first hour, Boon and the lower middle order applied themselves. It was,

perhaps, no coincidence that a Yorkshireman made the highest score of the day: Boon's 58, a partnership of 44 between Nixon and Millns, and an unexpected last-wicket stand of 20 enabled Leicestershire to finish with 193, a total that in the morning would have been a pipedream.

For Essex, there was only the stark reality of not being able to cope with as sharp an opening attack as they can have encountered all season. Millns's first ball accounted for Stephenson and he had Prichard taken at the wicket down the leg side.

Benjamin, who was slipping himself, yoked Waugh, who was late on the shot. Hussain, who could have been out earlier had the slip cordon been fully maintained, was bowled pushing half forward.

Next, he had Shahid taken by Nixon off an inside edge. That was 38 for six, and not one of the wickets could be attributed to the groundsmen. Carnham and Foster briefly flourished before Millns, the county's leading wicket-taker, surpassed his tally for last season.

He now has 64 wickets and a fair chance of making his Test debut at the Oval next month.

Four more wickets for tireless Walsh

By RICHARD STREKTON

CHELTEMHAM (first day of three: Sussex won toss; Gloucestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 281 runs behind Sussex.

COURTNEY Walsh, the West Indian fast bowler, continued to carry the Gloucestershire bowling almost single-handedly yesterday when he took four for 39 against Sussex. It lifted Walsh's aggregate for the season so far to 62, a tribute to his consistent form in spite of the distractions of a benefit year.

Mark Davies, the left-arm spinner, with 33 wickets, follows Walsh in the Gloucestershire list of wicket-takers. Davies, a rapidly improving bowler, claimed three wickets.

It was a good performance by Gloucestershire on a bland pitch to dismiss their opponents by 5.20 after several of the Sussex batsmen threatened to run amok. Smith, Lenham and Wells all passed 60 before carelessness had a hand in their downfalls. Moores and Remy also hit lustily among the late order men.

These five shared 52 fours between them. It was only partly due to a short boundary for this match on one side of the field, which was not always easy to defend. Numerous hard-hit drives also provided good entertainment for another sizeable festival crowd.

Hall, with scores of 140 not out and 71 behind him in the previous match, had almost been held in the slips from Walsh's second ball before he was caught behind in the bowler's second over. Smith, another man in form, was limping slightly but drove and pulled with great power before he was bowled by a near full toss from Ball, the off-spinner.

Ball should have had Lenham stumped soon afterwards. Lenham was 41 and moved out to drive, but was beaten by the spin, which also caused Russell to fumble the chance. Otherwise, Lenham and Wells, who have recently experienced lean spells, offered no encouragement to the bowlers, as they took the total past 200.

Lenham invariably timed the ball sweetly until he aimed a loose cut against Alleyne was caught in the slips. Lenham hit 14 fours. Speight, scorer of the season's fastest hundred on Thursday, played too soon against Babington and gave a return catch.

Impressive strokes past cover marked the batting of Wells, until he moved out against Davies's quicker ball and was stumped. After tea, Sussex lost their last five wickets in 13 overs, with Walsh taking three for nine.



Lenham: good timing



Moment to savour: Munton celebrates the capture of Agib's wicket

Pakistan's unwanted century blamed on bowling decline

PAKISTAN bowled their 100th no-ball of the present Test series at Headingley yesterday. England have so far bowled 64. Wasim Akram's personal tally in 24 Test matches stands at 63.

At the recent meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC) at Lord's South Africa pressed, without success, for a re-thinking of the no-ball law. They presented a comparison between the number of no-balls called before and since the change in the law, which, before, officially, in 1963, before more than two or three of today's first-class cricketers were in their teens.

As an example of this, in the Test series between England and Australia in England in 1961, when the front foot law was experimental and the umpires were advised to use discretion, only one no-ball appears in the score sheets from a total of 198 overs.

Sir Donald Bradman has written a cogent paper in which he makes a nonsense of the present front-foot law. In the latest issue of The Cricketer International, Richie Benaud describes it as "the most frustrating cricket law ever passed."

Alex Beder, one of England's greatest bowlers, blames it for what he considers to be a general decline in bowling standards.

Beder's reasoning for this is that for a bowler to have to concentrate on the position of his front foot in the delivery stride militates against the classical side-on action and has much to do with the increase in bowling injuries. Colin Egar, who umpired 23 Test matches, nine before and 14 after the law was changed from the back foot to the front foot and is now chairman of the Australian Cricket Board, prefers the old law, so, I know, does at least one umpire in the present series.

Yet the case for looking again at the law was given short shrift by the ICC. Many of the delegates, perhaps a majority of them, may not have felt qualified to express an opinion on so technical a matter but even to them it must be obvious how trying, to the public as well as to bowlers, is an endless succession of no-balls.

To some extent, obviously, the bowlers have themselves to blame for over-stepping but that is secondary to the question of whether it is a better game under the front foot or the back foot law. When the lobby in favour of the latter is led by such luminaries as Bradman, Beder and Benaud, the issue certainly merits more than cursory consideration.

Here at Headingley, England have replaced one persistent no-baller in Devon Malcolm with another in Derek Pringle.

In Australia's first innings at Adelaide in 1982-3, Pringle bowled 28 no-balls, exactly the number of runs by which England, on their way to defeat, failed to save the follow-on. On Thursday he bowled another 14.

That is sloppy. It would be interesting to see one competition, say the Sunday League, played, anyway for a year, with the back foot applying. I doubt, in fact, whether it would catch on, but there would be no harm in seeing

Roseberry produces a warm welcome for Durham

By JACK BAILEY

LORD'S (first day of three: Middlesex won toss; Middlesex have scored 344 for eight wickets.

THIS was Durham's first first-class match at headquarters, but they were soon made to feel at home. The stentorian Geordie tones of Mike Roseberry, of Middlesex, were a welcome influence as they echoed across the field with cries of "yes, no, wait."

On the whole, though, Durham would sooner have been without them; for Roseberry's cries continued throughout the day while he made an undefeated 172 out of 344.

Roseberry is, as they say, on a roll. He has been for quite a long spell now, and higher recognition must surely come

his way. Patience, a sound technique and considerable power were all in evidence yesterday in an innings which always remained interesting throughout its great length, brought him the highest score of his career and a six and 17 fours.

Roseberry's eighth century of the season was also his third in successive innings. Much of it was occupied in a second wicket stand of 167 from 54 overs with Gattling which carried the score along at a fair pace, but never at a rate which could be construed as distinctly unwelcome.

There were bouts of mistiming, especially against Brown and Botham early on, and Berry's off-spinners were never collared during a career best

performance of six for 105. All of which may serve to confirm reports of Middlesex' suspicions that the wicket, pitched very close to the grandstand, is a bit rough. But there has been little run as yet for Berry or Briers, the Durham leg spinner, and not much movement for anyone else.

Certainly, early timing difficulties apart, Roseberry encountered few problems and neither did Gattling in the most entertaining innings of the day. Gattling's 90 was scored in just under three hours, that square drive of his bringing a number of his 13 fours, none more exquisite than that with which he opened his account off Berry.

Berry was on early and off late in the absence, through injury, of Graveney's left arm — though the old boy is there to shepherd his charges.

Berry's contribution was monumental. Fortune favoured him and he was helped by one or two optimistic strokes as Middlesex hustled towards the end, but taking the six wickets, quite apart from the bowling of 36 overs in the day will make Lord's a very special place for him. His first wicket, that of Haynes, was the result of an neat piece of stumping in the 29th over.

He had to wait a long time for his second wicket when Gattling holed out to Botham in the covers in the 83rd. Then, he had Carr caught at mid on. Brown at mid wicket and Weekes at mid off. If Williams ever plays a wider shot than that which saw Berry bowl him he should be castigated. But perhaps it was all part of making Durham feel at home.

Newport forced out with groin injury

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

ENGLAND'S decision to leave Phil Newport out of the side at Headingley seems to have been a fortuitous one. He managed to bowl only two overs at a cost of ten runs for Worcestershire against Derbyshire at New Road yesterday before succumbing to a groin injury.

However, another recent England discard, the left-arm spinner, Richard Illingworth, who took four for 57, aided by Stuart Lampitt with four for 56, enabled Worcestershire to minimise the effect of Newport's absence.

Derbyshire reached 103 for one, with John Morris, who was dropped twice scoring 67, and Peter Bowler (50) figuring in a century stand. But thereafter only Tim O'Connor, who made 33 in 46 overs, and Dominic Cork, with 34, offered much resistance as Der-

byshire were dismissed for 246 in 91.1 overs. The Worcestershire openers, Tim Curtis and Phil Weston, survived a testing examination from Ian Bishop and Devon Malcolm to steer their side to 29 for no wicket off 17 overs by the close.

The Somerset attack, even without Neil Mallender, did well to restrict a subdued Glamorgan to 276 from 104 overs at Abergavenny, which has had the reputation of a high-scoring ground.

Glamorgan lost three wickets in the fifties and Viv Richards, who would no doubt have enjoyed making a big score against his former county, managed only 27 before he was picked up off Adrianus van Toost, who shared four wickets with another Dutchman, Roland Lefebvre.

Somerset's leading wicket-taker, with four, was Graham Rose, who dismissed the stubborn Hugh Morris for 71. Morris, who was fifth out at 164, was in for 54 overs and hit eight fours.

The recovery was carried on by Adrian Dale and Robert Croft, who put on 72 for the sixth wicket before Dale holed out.

Kent will be urged by the Test and County Cricket Board to try to get more water onto the square at Canterbury, where the pitch for the game against Somerset, which finished unsuitable for first-class cricket. But it was decided that Kent would not suffer any deduction of points.

The Kent secretary, Stuart Anderson, said: "Obviously we are very relieved. I think it does highlight the acute difficulties we have in the provision of sufficient water. We are not allowed to use anything from the mains at all."

Kent will be asked to attend the next meeting of the TCCB pitches committee.

YESTERDAY'S BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Middlesex v Durham

LORD'S (first day of three: Middlesex won toss; Middlesex have scored 344 for eight wickets against Durham.

MIDDLESEX: First Innings
D. L. Haynes c Scott b Berry 26
M. A. Roseberry not out 172
M. W. Gattling c Botham b Berry 90
J. R. Carr c Briers b Berry 17
P. H. Weston c Briers b Berry 1
J. E. Embury not out 4
R. F. Williams b Berry 0
A. R. C. Francis b Berry 0
C. W. Taylor not out 4
Extras (b 7, lb 14) 21
Total (8 wickets) 344
Score after 100 overs: 298-4
P. C. A. Tufnell to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-239, 3-247, 4-285, 5-298, 6-312, 7-325, 8-330
BOWLING: W. Larkins, S. Hutton, J. Botham, P. W. G. Parry, M. P. Briers, J. D. Garmston, R. W. Scott, D. A. Scrimgeour, P. J. Berry, S. P. Hughes and S. J. E. Brown
Bonus points: Middlesex 3, Durham 1
Umpires: R. Palmer and G. A. Stokely

Warwick v Nottingham

EDGBURGH (first day of three: Warwickshire won toss; Nottinghamshire have scored 247 for six wickets against Warwickshire.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings
P. C. Pollard c Pople b Bell 37
M. A. Cranley b Bell 16
R. T. Robinson not out 158
P. Johnson b Bell 0
O. W. Randall c M. P. Smith b Bell 9
M. Saeedby c Pople b Donald 66
K. P. Burns c O'Callaghan b Donald 0
N. P. French not out 0
Extras (b 8, lb 15, w 3, nb 3) 29
Total (6 wickets) 247
Score after 100 overs: 312-6
G. W. Miller, D. B. Parnett and R. J. Chapman to bat.

Bloxwich v Sussex

CHELTEMHAM COLLEGE (first day of three: Sussex won toss; Gloucestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 281 runs behind Sussex.

SUSSEX: First Innings
D. M. Smith b Bell 61
J. W. Hall c Russell b Walsh 8
K. J. Latham c Wright b Alleyne 63
M. P. Speight c and b Babington 5
P. H. Moore c Russell b Walsh 46
C. C. Perry b Walsh 46
B. J. Harrison b Walsh 14
A. C. S. Piggott c Alleyne b Davies 0
D. H. Salisbury c Alleyne b Davies 0
S. H. Coddie not out 2
Extras (b 5, lb 4, nb 2) 11
Total (8 wickets) 334
Score after 100 overs: 289-0
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35, 2-58, 3-58, 4-109, 5-152, 6-225, 7-245, 8-248, 9-248
BOWLING: C. Coddie 24-5-60-1, van Troost 14-2-57-2, Ross 21-4-59-4, Lefebvre 14-3-35-2, Haynes 7-3-13-0, Trapp 0-4-45-1
SOMERSET: First Innings
A. N. Hayward not out 0
D. J. Townsend not out 0
Extras (b 2) 2
Total (no wicket, 4 overs) 2
Score (2, 0, 1) 3

Gloucestershire v Somerset

ABERGAVENNY (first day of three: Gloucestershire won toss; Somerset, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 222 runs behind Gloucestershire.

GLoucestershire: First Innings
S. P. James c Trapp b Ross 28
M. H. Morris b Ross 22
D. J. Hump b Ross 19
D. J. Hump b Ross 19
D. J. Hump b Ross 19
D. J. Hump b Ross 19
D. J. Hump b Ross 19
D. J. Hump b Ross 19
Extras (b 5, lb 4, nb 2) 11
Total (70.1 overs) 103
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-7, 3-18, 4-18, 5-33, 6-110, 7-125, 8-123, 9-173
BOWLING: Ross 19-4-57-4, Ross 22-5-79-4, Andrew 15-6-26-2, Waugh 13-1-50-2

Leics v Essex

LEICESTER (first day of three: Leicestershire won toss; Leicestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 153 runs ahead of Essex.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings
J. J. Boon c Huxford b Foster 88
M. E. Vaughan c Garmston b Bell 24
J. J. Whisker c Stephenson b Foster 2
B. F. Smith c Stephenson b Foster 2
J. D. R. Benson c Waugh b Foster 0
L. Potter c Huxford b Bell 0
W. J. Wells c Garmston b Bell 28
W. J. Wells c Garmston b Waugh 88
W. R. M. Benjamin b Bell 0
D. J. Milne not out 14
A. D. Mulvey c Pople b Waugh 25
Extras (b 5, w 7, nb 2) 14
Total (70.1 overs) 103
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-7, 3-18, 4-18, 5-33, 6-110, 7-125, 8-123, 9-173
BOWLING: Foster 19-4-57-4, Ross 22-5-79-4, Andrew 15-6-26-2, Waugh 13-1-50-2

Second Innings

T. J. Boon not out 84
M. E. Vaughan not out 11
Total (no wicket) 95

ESSEX: First Innings
P. J. Prichard c Nixon b Milne 2
J. P. Stephenson b Bell 0
M. E. Vaughan b Benjamin 8
N. V. Pringle b Milne 9
N. Sheild c Nixon b Benjamin 8
T. M. A. Garmston c Milne b Wells 21
M. G. Bell c Nixon b Wells 13
S. J. W. Andrew c Nixon b Mulvey 0
J. H. Childs not out 1
Extras (b 2, nb 1) 3
Total (23.4 overs) 75
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-21, 3-18, 4-28, 5-32, 6-58, 7-73, 8-73, 9-73
BOWLING: Milne 7-1-23-3, Benjamin 6-0-22-8, Wells 4-2-16-2, Mulvey 5-3-2-2
Bonus points: Leicestershire 5, Essex 4
Umpires: D. J. Constant and R. A. White

New law makes football livelier

David Miller watches Italy win the opening contest of the 1992 Olympic Games

IT WORKS. Though it would be premature to say that football is about to be transformed by the new prohibition on passing back to the goalkeeper, all the signs in the first major match under the new rule suggest that the agonies — for spectators, that is — of defensive play over the past twenty years may be removed by this long overdue change in the laws.

The opening event of the 1992 Olympic Games was fairly unobtrusive as things go: an Italian team almost entirely composed of first-division professionals against a United States selection bursting to prove that the host nation of the next World Cup can put on a show to save the nation's face.

It was a quiet affair in the giant Nou Camp stadium, with almost more media than paying spectators, and it brought a 2-1 victory for Italy.

Yet what a revolutionary moment in the game it could have proved to have been. There were no more than a handful of passes back to either goalkeeper, Francesco Antonioli and Bradley Friedel.

What a joy it was to see two goalkeepers trembling with agitation every time it happened. Instead of smugly picking up the ball and mulling around, with the game temporarily dead, feeling totally safe and treating the other 21 players and the crowd with disdain.

The effects of this rule change were all too clearly there to be seen. For a start, the ball remains "active" for a substantially larger proportion of playing time, eliminating one of the most boring of all tactics.

Much more important, however, is the fact that the weaker team is now put under more pressure, denied the safety valve that for so long has protected the weak against the strong, the unambitious against the ambitious.

It means that strong teams are now much more likely to win, and by a bigger score, which is exactly the way it should be. And that was certainly the way it looked as if it was going to be when Italy went two up in the first half. What was happening was that the United States defence was having to try to play its way out of trouble with short passing between harassed defenders on the edge or close to their own penalty area.

Often they would fail to clear the ball, and Italy would be able to get in a shot or a run at the goal.

This has to be welcome news for any spectator and they do something to restore crowds years have drifted away to other sports or to their armchairs or the shopping mall.

David Will, the chairman of the Scottish Football Association and a member of the Fifa executive, said afterwards: "We have recently sent out a memorandum with instructions that players who attempt to evade the law by flicking the ball in the air and heading the ball back to the goalkeeper will immediately be penalised."

Melli and Corini scored for Italy in the first half, but there was evidence that a multi-racial American team, notably with two black players on the flanks, Washington and Althutt, were a more flexible and sophisticated unit than that outplayed in the World Cup two years ago.

Moore scored for them with a free kick around the defensive wall.

OUR CRICKET PITCHES SEEM TO HAVE MORE GREEN STRIPES THAN EVER.



The white shows with the green stripes. Reebok

More money needed to win sport's biggest battle



Before the fall: Johnson was used to medals and bouquets before the scandal in Seoul

THE phone rang at 4.40am in Seoul four years ago with the news of Ben Johnson's positive drug test. The call may have been unpleasantly early, but it was justified, because this was the biggest scandal in 92 years of the modern Olympic Games.

The revelation demonstrated the seriousness of the problem in international sport. It was not just that a gold medal-winner and world record-holder in the 100 metres, the most glamorous event of the Games, had been caught taking anabolic steroids: it was also that he had won titles for years and had never previously been caught.

As the subsequent Dublin Inquiry in Canada discovered, Johnson was not alone in escaping detection. There were several Canadian competitors who also admitted taking illegal substances, had never been caught and argued that they took drugs because so many of their rivals did.

Since Seoul, the changes in eastern Europe have seen suspicions confirmed that, for many years, there was a state-regulated drugs system in place, with many celebrated names — the East Germans in particular — taking banned substances.

Barely a day goes by without further revelations of drug abuse. Over the last month, Lars Arvid Nilsson, the Norwegian shot-putter and bronze

medal-winner at the 1991 world championships, has been found positive for a second time; two South Africans have been suspended, taking to five the total number in that country this year, and five Nigerian athletes have been prevented from going to Barcelona because they failed tests.

How does sport fight the growing menace, particularly when it has been unable to carry through its prosecution of competitors such as Karin Krabbe and Harry "Burch" Reynolds, two of the highest-profile athletes in the world? Reynolds, the world record-holder at 400 metres, and Krabbe, the world 100 and 200 metres champion, and her fellow-German athletes, Silke Möller and Grit Breuer, will not be running in Barcelona, but Reynolds, who fought hard but unsuccessfully to have his ban overturned,

was permitted to run in the United States trials, although he failed to qualify for the team. The Germans, after having their suspensions lifted by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), decided they were not fit to compete because they had been so mentally exhausted by their efforts to clear their names.

Athletics, the centrepiece of the Games, has suffered a blow to its reputation and integrity in these incidents. The temporary reinstatement of Reynolds, who challenged the adequacy of the testing procedures, makes it clear that much stricter doping regulations must be put in place.

He said he would give up his position soon because he

The menace of drugs in sport is ever present and detection remains a step behind, John Goodbody reports

The IAAF spends large amounts of money in conferences and jamborees. There is a clear need for some of this money to be used to ensure that the drugs control regulations are watertight all over the world. What was so extraordinary about the Krabbe affair was that the procedures were slack, not in a third world country but in one of the most developed athletics nations in the world.

When Charles Dubin published the results of his inquiry in 1990, he was critical of both the IAAF and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for not introducing out-of-competition drug tests earlier. Dubin said: "The failure of

the prince has been on the IOC since 1964 and set up the medical commission after the Mexico City Games in 1968. His next big task is to win introduction of blood tests, which give more conclusive evidence of deliberate drug-taking, in time for the Lillehammer Winter Olympics in 1994.

De Merode, aged 58, said it was time to hand over to a younger person. But IOC sources said he was also tired of his treatment by Olympic leaders since becoming publicly prominent over the Johnson scandal. "Some have made life difficult for Merode since Seoul," one IOC member said.

Drug-busting prince will retire

PRINCE Alexandre de Merode, the International Olympic Committee's leading anti-drugs campaigner, is to retire. De Merode, the president of the medical commission, was instrumental in unmasking Ben Johnson's drug-taking at the Seoul Games.

He said he would give up his position soon because he

was tired. De Merode, aged 58, said it was time to hand over to a younger person. But IOC sources said he was also tired of his treatment by Olympic leaders since becoming publicly prominent over the Johnson scandal. "Some have made life difficult for Merode since Seoul," one IOC member said.

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Early pressure is on the swimmers

British medals will help Manchester

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN BARCELONA

BRITAIN begin their battle for Olympic medals tomorrow aiming not only for transient glory but also to help promote Manchester's chances of securing the 2000 Games.

The morale of 389 British competitors would be boosted if Adrian Moorhouse, the defending champion, and Nick Gillingham secure medals in the men's 100 metres breaststroke final tomorrow. Dick Palmer, Britain's chief de mission, agreed that it put more pressure on the pair. "Victories by Duncan Goodhew in 1980 and Moorhouse in 1988 certainly raised everyone's spirits at the start of the Games."

Speaking on the eve of the opening ceremony at which the carman, Steve Redgrave — who will be attempting to win a gold medal at his third successive Games — will be carrying the British flag, Palmer described the British team as "the best prepared we have ever had."

"There has been more detailed preparation than we have ever had before, particularly in psychology and nutrition. Despite the rise in world standards, I will be disappointed if we do not do as well as in Seoul and we have got the potential to do very much



better." In 1988, Britain finished twelfth out of 160 nations in the medal table with five gold, ten silver and nine bronze medals.

However, Palmer said that Manchester's hopes of staging the 2000 Games could be enhanced by the number of medals won here. "I always think that the most potent argument you can have in the committee rooms is the performance of the competitors themselves."

With the government committed financially and politically to Manchester's bid — John Major and four other ministers are visiting Barcelona during the two weeks of the event — Britain's success at the Games gains extra importance.

Palmer said: "There is no doubt that there is a whole new feeling in government for sport. Robert Key visited the village on Thursday and showed a personal interest in the team, talking very enthusiastically to the competitors."

However, the opposition is the strongest ever, given rising standards and the fact that 169 countries are here. With the return of South Africa and the collapse of communism in eastern Europe, this will be the first time since 1960 that the Games have not been rent by international political disputes, which have often led to boycotts. Medals will be at a premium with a total of 10,000 competitors taking part in the 25 sports.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, spoke happily yesterday at his final news conference before the Games — in his home town — of the "unity that exists today". But he again warned of the danger of the Games becoming unmanageable in size. He said that if new sports were admitted, then others would have to be dropped from the programme.

When questioned about drugs, Samaranch said that the International Olympic Committee would be "co-ordinating" the work of all the international federations in random out-of-competition testing of competitors, who use proscribed substances out of season. It will be interesting to see how actively the IOC does this and whether it will fund new research from its vast financial resources.



Double act: breaststrokes Gillingham and Moorhouse, ready for early action

Stark is eager to conquer course

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR

THE four members of the British three-day event team, who start on Monday as favourites for the Olympic gold medal, exuded quiet confidence after walking the cross-country course for the first time yesterday.

The imposing 33-fence course, built by Wolfgang Feld, of Germany, is situated on the edge of El Montanyà, a picturesque mountain village — with a refreshing breeze — 50km north of Barcelona.

Ian Stark, who is also among the favourites for the individual gold medal, described the course as "very big and demanding", adding that "the horses will have to be nimble and supple because there are short and long distances within the same combination — but it is beautifully built and we are all keen to lock on and get started."

Stark, a team silver medal-winner in Los Angeles and Seoul, decides tomorrow, after the first day, whether he will ride Glenburnie or Murphy Himself.

Richard Walker, who is competing at his first Olympic Games, described the straight route on the course as "quite serious" but his confidence in the ten-year-old Jacana is such that he said yesterday he would be quite happy to go first for Britain — as he did at the European championships in Puchestown last year, when he won the individual silver medal.

Karen Straker, who replaced the ill-fated Virginia Leng in the team last week, rates the course as "bigger and more technical" than either Seoul or Puchestown. Her main concern with Get Smart is the three impressive water complexes. Mary Thomson's chief worry is "knowing where to risk taking a quick route."

The course, which winds its way through the wooded hillside, has a definite gold medal route and a smaller, alternative route, which could add up to half a mile to the distance covered.

Several of the 19 teams competing, including the British, have asked for the distances in phases A and C, the roads and tracks and the steeplechase, to be reduced. "We thought it was a good idea," Stark said, "because the heat and humidity will make the whole event so much more demanding."

Some frantic late rebuilding had to be done on the course after torrential rain a fortnight ago. The lake rose to 8ft and was filled with mud and debris. "We had to drain it and start again," Michael Tucker, the technical delegate, said yesterday.

Frankie Sloothaak's show jumping team gold medal-winner in Seoul, Walderkoning, injured himself at the Luxembourg show last weekend. A decision on his fitness for the German Olympic team will be made on Monday.

Swimmers scheme to continue British tradition

FROM CRAIG LORR

EVERY vital stroke that Adrian Moorhouse and Nick Gillingham take in the heats of the 100 metres breaststroke tomorrow morning will be matched by the sound of British hearts beating fast, not just at home but here in the athletes' village.

For the two should make the final and continue a habit in which swimmers create the first chances for Britain to win Olympic medals. Success would lift the spirits of all British competitors from day one, as it did in 1976, with a silver medal for David Wilkie, and in 1980 and 1988, when Duncan Goodhew and Moorhouse became Olympic champions.

The omens look good. Gil-

lingham is the fastest man in the world this year and only 0.04sec away from the world record, and Moorhouse, who has yet to show his true race form this year, is relaxed and confident. Between them, they hold five of the top ten performances at 100 metres.

Dick Palmer, general secretary of the British Olympic Association, sympathised with the swimmers. He said: "There's more pressure on them. It is the same as in Seoul, when Moorhouse did it, and for Goodhew in Moscow. Winning on Sunday would definitely raise the morale of the whole British team."

At a recent gathering of former Olympic champions, Malcolm Cooper, the shooter, and Michael McIntyre and

TOP 1992-TIMES
1:01.33 Nick Gillingham (GB)
1:01.40 Nelson Diebel (US)
1:01.51 Karoly Gatter (HUN)
1:01.78 Norbert Rozsa (HUN)
1:02.08 Akira Hayashi (JPN)
1:02.10 Vasil Ivanov (CIS)
1:02.14 Hans Dersch (US)
1:02.28 Jon Cleveland (CAN)
1:02.33 Adrian Moorhouse (GB)
World record: Norbert Rozsa (HUN), 1min 01.28sec, 1991.

Bryn Vaile, the yachtsman, said that Moorhouse's victory was a key element in helping them to secure their own Olympic titles. "They said it set the tone, raised their sights. They watched Adrian and believed they could do it too," Caroline Serle, of the BOA, said. Both British swimmers have heard the story before,

but deny that they feel extra pressure for being the first on the line. Gillingham said: "It's good to know there's support out there, but that's not really what affects me; you can't think like that. I was more relaxed in Seoul, everything was new. This time, I'm more reserved and I feel more pressure, but from myself."

Although the statistics and the Britons' record of success at big championships point to medals, the rivals constantly remind questioners that of the eight finalists, six could win. The favourite is Norbert Rozsa, aged 20, the Hungarian world record-holder (61.29sec) and, like Moorhouse, eight years older, relies on strength rather than technique. Rozsa became world and European champi-

on last year, but was beaten by Gillingham for the European 200 metres title.

Gillingham, aged 25, leads a field of newcomers to the 100 metres who have been bunched behind Rozsa and the 61.49sec time that Moorhouse has clocked three times. While Moorhouse and Rozsa are similar in size, the Briton at 6ft 11in and 13st 7lb, Gillingham is 6ft but only 11st 7lb.

The British pair object to being likened to runners Seb Coe and Steve Ovett in terms of rivalry. Moorhouse, who would be the first to retain the 100 metres title if he won, said: "We get on well and we'll be all the stronger for having each other in the final, but only one can win. We know that."

Disputed swimsuit is cleared

THE revolutionary torso-covering swimsuit that is likely to cause protest if worn by both men and women competitors here has been cleared for use by Fina, the sport's world governing body.

According to sources close to Fina, tests carried out by the authority suggest that the suit, a mixture of polyurethane and polyester that comes in black and resembles a wet-suit without arms or legs, is no more buoyant than other materials. As such, it does not contravene any law of the sport.

The \$2000 material is said by Speedo to be the next generation in the line of cloth development that runs through silk, wool, nylon and lycra. The German team is the only team so far to say it will protest if the suit is worn here. Germans claim they only heard about it on Wednesday.

Boardman can see

Chris Boardman, Britain's main hope for an Olympic cycling track medal in the 4,000 metres pursuit, which starts on Monday, had emergency "cosmetics" to his streamlined helmet yesterday when he found that it was slipping down over his eyes. "The problem has been solved," the national coach, Doug Dailey, said.

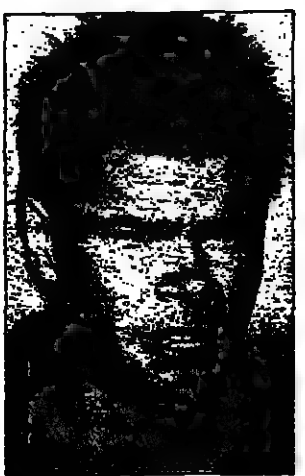
Boardman's revolutionary design of frame — also made from carbon fibre — has been the big attraction whenever he has trained.

Silent night

Olympic organisers are hoping that Montserrat Caballe can do for the Games what Luciano Pavarotti did for the World Cup in Italy two years ago. Pavarotti's rendition of "Nessun Dorma" (No One Sleeps) became synonymous with football's showpiece — and "Barcelona", the duet featuring Caballe and Freddie Mercury, has really put the Catalan city on the map.

Tomorrow night, a worldwide television audience of 3.5 billion is expected to tune in as Caballe, and five more of Spain's greatest opera singers, including José Carreras and Plácido Domingo, get the Games off to a rousing start. At least, that's the plan. Because of technical problems, the Olympic theme may become "Silent Night" with the singers having to mime their arias during the medley.

Dutch draw out good build-up performance



Batchelor: featured

GREAT Britain put the finishing touch to their Olympic preparation with a 2-2 draw against Holland in a training match at Terrassa on Thursday night (Sydney Friskin writes).

Britain got away to a splendid start with a well-taken goal in the ninth minute by Lee. The chance was set up by Shaw after a quick break on the right by Batchelor.

The Dutch levelled the score a minute after half-time, with Bovelander converting a short corner. Luckless, taking over from Rowlands as goal-keeper, made several good saves before Hill converted Britain's only short corner

midway through the second half. In the closing minutes, Bovelander equalised from another short corner.

"We were pleased with our performance against the World Cup holders, particularly in attack," Bernie Cotton, the team manager, said yesterday morning as Britain contemplated their first Olympic match tomorrow against Egypt.

While victory over Egypt is expected, the management have set a target of at least five goals. If the Egyptians are let off lightly, Germany and Australia could well capitalise later. Australia, however, will be

have to do so without their regular centre forward, Mark Hager, who has been withdrawn from a fractured foot. His replacement, Greg Corbett, is on his way to join the team.

The most daunting task on the first day will be faced by India, when they play Germany, one of the favoured sides to win the gold medal. India had beaten Britain twice, by 3-1 on successive days at Milton Keynes and Reading, but, in a practice match in Barcelona during the week, they were over-run by Spain, who achieved a 5-1 victory.

WEEKEND OLYMPIC TIMETABLE

All times are BST

Today: Opening ceremony
0800: Opening ceremony
Tomorrow
0730: Shooting: women's 10m air rifle, preliminary round
0800: Cycling: men's 100km team time-trial, Modern pentathlon: fencing, Shooting: open 3'x2', preliminary round
0830: Basketball: men's preliminary round
0900: Diving: women's platform, preliminary round; Hockey: men's pool matches; Swimming: heats of women's 100m freestyle, men's 100m breaststroke, women's 400m individual medley, men's 200m freestyle; Wrestling (Greco-Roman) 52, 68 and 100kg, eliminations
0930: Basketball: preliminary round; Shooting: women's individual road race, final; Volleyball: men's preliminary round
1000: Hockey: men's pool matches; Wrestling (Greco-Roman) 52, 68 and 100kg, eliminations
1030: Cycling: women's individual road race, final; Volleyball: men's preliminary round
1100: Basketball: preliminary round; Swimming: heats of women's 100m freestyle, men's 100m breaststroke, women's 400m individual medley, men's 200m freestyle; Wrestling (Greco-Roman) 52, 68 and 100kg, eliminations
1130: Basketball: preliminary round; Shooting: women's team event, Shooting: men's 50m free pistol, profile, new round
1200: Weightlifting: Under 62kg, group 1200: Boxing: First round, Volleyball: men's preliminary round
1300: Basketball: men's preliminary round

1400: Diving: women's platform, preliminary round; Shooting: men's 50m free pistol, final; Volleyball: men's preliminary round; Wrestling: Under 52kg, group 1500: Basketball: men's preliminary round
1600: Hockey: men's pool matches; Wrestling (Greco-Roman) 52, 68 and 100kg, eliminations
1630: Cycling: women's individual road race, final; Volleyball: men's preliminary round
1700: Basketball: preliminary round; Swimming: heats of women's 100m freestyle, men's 100m breaststroke, women's 400m individual medley, men's 200m freestyle
1730: Weightlifting: under 62kg, final
1800: Boxing: First round; Football: preliminary round; Hockey: men's pool matches; Volleyball: men's preliminary round
1900: Gymnastics: women's team event, 1930: Basketball: men's preliminary round
2000: Football: preliminary round
2030: Volleyball: men's preliminary round
2130: Basketball: men's preliminary round

It is about time that the humbug was stopped



FROM DAVID MILLER
IN BARCELONA

LAWRIE Smith is one of the hard-bitten old professionals of these Olympic Games. Disappointed not to have won a Soling medal in 1988, he is a veteran of America's Cup campaigns and a Whitbread Round the World skipper. He is, I suggest, the epitome of what the Olympics now are: the best against the best, as professional as it is possible to be.

I have seldom read so much misinformation as recently from some commentators, who seem to think the Olympic Games are still, or should be, a gentle amateur event. The Games have not been amateur, for those hoping to win medals, since Harold

Abrahams hired Sam Mussabini as his coach for the 100 metres 68 years ago.

The admittance of open professionalism, in place of feigned amateurism, is one of the most sensible things to have happened, and that is why it is, and will, I hope continue to be, the most important sports event we have.

Smith, for whom sailing has been a livelihood for almost half his 36 years, gives the lie to those who believe this is the world of amateur ethics. "The Olympic Games is more intense," he said yesterday, "waiting for the afternoon on-shore sea breeze to pick up for a practice session, than any competition but the America's Cup. More than the Admiral's Cup or the Whitbread. You



prepare for it for so long." Those who think that only amateur sport is clean and sporting, their professionalism to be despised, are misled. I was brought up in the old world of Corinthian amateurism, and while that was, at its best, without equal in sport, I have known countless un-sportsmanlike amateurs and just as many and maybe more professional gentlemen. The survival of the Olympic

Games depends not on resisting the encroachment of professionals but the infiltration of cheats.

Of course, the professional with the incentive of financial reward — not directly available in the Olympics — has more inducement than the amateur to cheat; but that need not be so if the organisers are vigilant and uncompromising, in the same way as those who administer golf.

This applies whether we are talking about the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) medical commission or the umpires out on the sailing course for Smith's match-racing, now a feature of the later stages of the Soling events following the six opening fleet races.

One of the differences be-

tween amateurism and professionalism is efficiency, and that includes the administrators as much as the performers. "We need to understand that sailing has changed," Mike Evans, the general secretary of the International Yacht Racing Union said. "If we want to promote the sport for the young, we have to be very professional."

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president and his IOC colleagues, face a colossal responsibility in avoiding the disintegration of the Games from drug abuse, from gigantism, from the vested self-interest of a minority of their own number. It is important that the Games come through the next two weeks with reputation enhanced, as in Seoul in spite of Ben Johnson. Seoul

was an unforgettable experience and Barcelona may well prove its equal.

Yet even if these Games flourish and survive the security nightmare, the task lying ahead for Samaranch is immense. He has just endured an unprecedented period of criticism, some of it justified, some of it wilful defamation. On Thursday, he volunteered, at 72, to carry on for another four years from next year. He has made some mistakes in the past 12 years, as he would admit, but has massive achievements to his credit. We might well not now be about to experience the XXVth Games, which open here today, were it not for his diplomacy and quiet revolution, from the former false amateurism to the present realism.

The Games are not only vastly bigger and more commercial, dangerously but unavoidably so, but better. If they are to continue into the 21st century, it will require a degree of common sense and altruism among all sports leaders at the most critical Olympic Congress in history in 1994 at Paris, where the modern Olympics began.

Italy, the favourites, beat the United States 2-1 in the first match of the football competition.

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Saturday Review

Gooch closing on seventeenth Test hundred

England openers put on 168 to torment Pakistan

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HEADINGLEY (second day of five): England, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 19 runs ahead of Pakistan

ON THE ground where wickets come cheaper than anywhere on the Test match circuit, Pakistan spent five hours yesterday enduring the agonies of a bargain-hunting shopper who finds the summer sales have ended early.

It took them 59 overs on a rising tide of frustration to divide the England openers, by which time all but 29 of their first-innings score had been wiped off. They suffered further torment in the final hour and both their humour and their stated resolve to avoid a repetition of the Old Trafford confrontations were wearing visibly thin before the close.

Wasim Akram had kept the lid on his dismay during two superb, sustained spells and any number of rejected appeals. But Waqar Younis, in his final burst of the day, was eloquent in his disgust at Mervyn Kitchen's disinclination to raise his finger.

The giant screen, on which

slow-motion replays are shown, was unhelpfully provocative, several times halting the game while the Pakistanis waited for a re-run of another disappointment. Javed Miandad tried, certainly harder than at Old Trafford, to keep his players calm but Waqar more than once gave a relieved batsman the benefit of his views. The day ended in a fragile peace.

Pakistan were probably unlucky not to win at least one low decision and certainly unlucky that better weather made batting more comfortable than on Thursday. But, for the first time in this Cornhill series, England are now dictating terms, and it almost goes without saying that the architect has been Graham Gooch.

On this same ground last year, Gooch carried his bat for 154, the decisive factor in the defeat of West Indies. His theory this week has been that, if the bowlers performed adequately, it would not be they who settled this fourth Test but a batsman succeeding against the odds. It is typical of him to take it upon himself to do the

job. Gooch will resume this morning on 93. He has not given a single chance but, with the ball keeping treacherously low, nobody could bat so long without blemish and his moral defeat included a few of the low appeals which the umpires soicely refused all day long.

He earned any good fortune through his positive attitude, a remark which applies equally to the admirable Michael Atherton.

Pressed back into service in the opener's job he feared he had lost for good to Alec Stewart. Atherton discarded the uncertainties of his recent county form and took up where he had left off prior to his setbacks of last summer. His stand of 168 with Gooch was their sixth of more than 150 in the 14 Tests in which they have gone in first.

They were reunited only because Stewart's wicketkeeping had left him tired. It may now also leave him emotional for, after opening with such distinction all year, he now finds that the expedient of giving him the gloves could have cost him his identity.

Stewart had an hour's wicketkeeping at start of play yesterday and England will initially have felt it took them too long to capture the two remaining wickets.

As it turned out, it was a sign of things to come, for Mushaq Ahmed's relative confidence, in support of the inventive Salim Malik, indicated that the ball was neither swinging nor seaming so much as before.

Lewis eventually produced a yorker to knock out Mushaq's off stump and Aqib nudged his third ball to second slip, where Hick held his fourth catch of the innings.

In the full house crowd, estimates of England's lunch-time score now ranged from



The joke's on the bowlers: Gooch, left, and Atherton share a lighthearted moment during their impressive partnership at Headingley

BREITLING
1884

CHRONOMETER
Self-winding chronograph.
Steel and yellow gold.
Leather strap or metal bracelet.

INSTRUMENTS
FOR PROFESSIONALS

LONDON STOCKISTS:
ASPREY, CARRUTHERS, HANCOCK, WATSON & DEAN, 11A, A BELLERS, 11A, 11B, 11C, 11D, 11E, 11F, 11G, 11H, 11I, 11J, 11K, 11L, 11M, 11N, 11O, 11P, 11Q, 11R, 11S, 11T, 11U, 11V, 11W, 11X, 11Y, 11Z, 11AA, 11AB, 11AC, 11AD, 11AE, 11AF, 11AG, 11AH, 11AI, 11AJ, 11AK, 11AL, 11AM, 11AN, 11AO, 11AP, 11AQ, 11AR, 11AS, 11AT, 11AU, 11AV, 11AW, 11AX, 11AY, 11AZ, 11BA, 11BB, 11BC, 11BD, 11BE, 11BF, 11BG, 11BH, 11BI, 11BJ, 11BK, 11BL, 11BM, 11BN, 11BO, 11BP, 11BQ, 11BR, 11BS, 11BT, 11BU, 11BV, 11BW, 11BX, 11BY, 11BZ, 11CA, 11CB, 11CC, 11CD, 11CE, 11CF, 11CG, 11CH, 11CI, 11CJ, 11CK, 11CL, 11CM, 11CN, 11CO, 11CP, 11CQ, 11CR, 11CS, 11CT, 11CU, 11CV, 11CW, 11CX, 11CY, 11CZ, 11DA, 11DB, 11DC, 11DD, 11DE, 11DF, 11DG, 11DH, 11DI, 11DJ, 11DK, 11DL, 11DM, 11DN, 11DO, 11DP, 11DQ, 11DR, 11DS, 11DT, 11DU, 11DV, 11DW, 11DX, 11DY, 11DZ, 11EA, 11EB, 11EC, 11ED, 11EE, 11EF, 11EG, 11EH, 11EI, 11EJ, 11EK, 11EL, 11EM, 11EN, 11EO, 11EP, 11EQ, 11ER, 11ES, 11ET, 11EU, 11EV, 11EW, 11EX, 11EY, 11EZ, 11FA, 11FB, 11FC, 11FD, 11FE, 11FF, 11FG, 11FH, 11FI, 11FJ, 11FK, 11FL, 11FM, 11FN, 11FO, 11FP, 11FQ, 11FR, 11FS, 11FT, 11FU, 11FV, 11FW, 11FX, 11FY, 11FZ, 11GA, 11GB, 11GC, 11GD, 11GE, 11GF, 11GG, 11GH, 11GI, 11GJ, 11GK, 11GL, 11GM, 11GN, 11GO, 11GP, 11GQ, 11GR, 11GS, 11GT, 11GU, 11GV, 11GW, 11GX, 11GY, 11GZ, 11HA, 11HB, 11HC, 11HD, 11HE, 11HF, 11HG, 11HH, 11HI, 11HJ, 11HK, 11HL, 11HM, 11HN, 11HO, 11HP, 11HQ, 11HR, 11HS, 11HT, 11HU, 11HV, 11HW, 11HX, 11HY, 11HZ, 11IA, 11IB, 11IC, 11ID, 11IE, 11IF, 11IG, 11IH, 11II, 11IJ, 11IK, 11IL, 11IM, 11IN, 11IO, 11IP, 11IQ, 11IR, 11IS, 11IT, 11IU, 11IV, 11IW, 11IX, 11IY, 11IZ, 11JA, 11JB, 11JC, 11JD, 11JE, 11JF, 11JG, 11JH, 11JI, 11JJ, 11JK, 11JL, 11JM, 11JN, 11JO, 11JP, 11JQ, 11JR, 11JS, 11JT, 11JU, 11JV, 11JW, 11JX, 11JY, 11JZ, 11KA, 11KB, 11KC, 11KD, 11KE, 11KF, 11KG, 11KH, 11KI, 11KJ, 11KK, 11KL, 11KM, 11KN, 11KO, 11KP, 11KQ, 11KR, 11KS, 11KT, 11KU, 11KV, 11KW, 11KX, 11KY, 11KZ, 11LA, 11LB, 11LC, 11LD, 11LE, 11LF, 11LG, 11LH, 11LI, 11LJ, 11LK, 11LL, 11LM, 11LN, 11LO, 11LP, 11LQ, 11LR, 11LS, 11LT, 11LU, 11LV, 11LW, 11LX, 11LY, 11LZ, 11MA, 11MB, 11MC, 11MD, 11ME, 11MF, 11MG, 11MH, 11MI, 11MJ, 11MK, 11ML, 11MM, 11MN, 11MO, 11MP, 11MQ, 11MR, 11MS, 11MT, 11MU, 11MV, 11MW, 11MX, 11MY, 11MZ, 11NA, 11NB, 11NC, 11ND, 11NE, 11NF, 11NG, 11NH, 11NI, 11NJ, 11NK, 11NL, 11NM, 11NN, 11NO, 11NP, 11NQ, 11NR, 11NS, 11NT, 11NU, 11NV, 11NW, 11NX, 11NY, 11NZ, 11OA, 11OB, 11OC, 11OD, 11OE, 11OF, 11OG, 11OH, 11OI, 11OJ, 11OK, 11OL, 11OM, 11ON, 11OO, 11OP, 11OQ, 11OR, 11OS, 11OT, 11OU, 11OV, 11OW, 11OX, 11OY, 11OZ, 11PA, 11PB, 11PC, 11PD, 11PE, 11PF, 11PG, 11PH, 11PI, 11PJ, 11PK, 11PL, 11PM, 11PN, 11PO, 11PP, 11PQ, 11PR, 11PS, 11PT, 11PU, 11PV, 11PW, 11PX, 11PY, 11PZ, 11QA, 11QB, 11QC, 11QD, 11QE, 11QF, 11QG, 11QH, 11QI, 11QJ, 11QK, 11QL, 11QM, 11QN, 11QO, 11QP, 11QQ, 11QR, 11QS, 11QT, 11QU, 11QV, 11QW, 11QX, 11QY, 11QZ, 11RA, 11RB, 11RC, 11RD, 11RE, 11RF, 11RG, 11RH, 11RI, 11RJ, 11RK, 11RL, 11RM, 11RN, 11RO, 11RP, 11RQ, 11RR, 11RS, 11RT, 11RU, 11RV, 11RW, 11RX, 11RY, 11RZ, 11SA, 11SB, 11SC, 11SD, 11SE, 11SF, 11SG, 11SH, 11SI, 11SJ, 11SK, 11SL, 11SM, 11SN, 11SO, 11SP, 11SQ, 11SR, 11SS, 11ST, 11SU, 11SV, 11SW, 11SX, 11SY, 11SZ, 11TA, 11TB, 11TC, 11TD, 11TE, 11TF, 11TG, 11TH, 11TI, 11TJ, 11TK, 11TL, 11TM, 11TN, 11TO, 11TP, 11TQ, 11TR, 11TS, 11TT, 11TU, 11TV, 11TW, 11TX, 11TY, 11TZ, 11UA, 11UB, 11UC, 11UD, 11UE, 11UF, 11UG, 11UH, 11UI, 11UJ, 11UK, 11UL, 11UM, 11UN, 11UO, 11UP, 11UQ, 11UR, 11US, 11UT, 11UU, 11UV, 11UW, 11UX, 11UY, 11UZ, 11VA, 11VB, 11VC, 11VD, 11VE, 11VF, 11VG, 11VH, 11VI, 11VJ, 11VK, 11VL, 11VM, 11VN, 11VO, 11VP, 11VQ, 11VR, 11VS, 11VT, 11VU, 11VV, 11VW, 11VX, 11VY, 11VZ, 11WA, 11WB, 11WC, 11WD, 11WE, 11WF, 11WG, 11WH, 11WI, 11WJ, 11WK, 11WL, 11WM, 11WN, 11WO, 11WP, 11WQ, 11WR, 11WS, 11WT, 11WU, 11WV, 11WW, 11WX, 11WY, 11WZ, 11XA, 11XB, 11XC, 11XD, 11XE, 11XF, 11XG, 11XH, 11XI, 11XJ, 11XK, 11XL, 11XM, 11XN, 11XO, 11XP, 11XQ, 11XR, 11XS, 11XT, 11XU, 11XV, 11XW, 11XX, 11XY, 11XZ, 11YA, 11YB, 11YC, 11YD, 11YE, 11YF, 11YG, 11YH, 11YI, 11YJ, 11YK, 11YL, 11YM, 11YN, 11YO, 11YP, 11YQ, 11YR, 11YS, 11YT, 11YU, 11YV, 11YW, 11YX, 11YY, 11YZ, 11ZA, 11ZB, 11ZC, 11ZD, 11ZE, 11ZF, 11ZG, 11ZH, 11ZI, 11ZJ, 11ZK, 11ZL, 11ZM, 11ZN, 11ZO, 11ZP, 11ZQ, 11ZR, 11ZS, 11ZT, 11ZU, 11ZV, 11ZW, 11ZX, 11ZY, 11ZZ.

Will history repeat itself in Barcelona?

Surely not, I mean, surely not. But the press village here is abuzz with rumours: Ben Johnson for gold. People point to sudden and dramatic improvement in form. Then they wag their heads from side to side, place an index finger alongside the nose and wink. We all know what that means, eh? Johnson has allegedly been working with Charlie Francis, his former coach, who is banned from the sport after he admitted supplying his athletes with drugs. And Johnson is running faster than he has done since he was banned in 1988.

The best evidence for all this wild speculation is a phenomenal run in which Johnson recorded a hand-timed 9.90sec. That would probably be good enough to win the 100 metres here — especially when you consider that the run took place in absolutely appalling conditions: a spectacular down-

pour and, rather appropriately, great peals of thunder. "And he was easing up at the finish," one observer said. Johnson back? Surely not...

Public relations

The United States swimming team gave a massed press conference the other day and did it awfully well. So they should: they have been given official written instructions on how to be interviewed.

This is summarised thus: "Once take control of your interview. Have two or three points you want to get across to the media and hammer away at those points. Repetition may be necessary. Two look and act like a champion. Comb your hair, wear your sweats, smile, sit up, speak up, establish eye contact, avoid um, un and you know. Things didn't go your way. Relax and enjoy your interview. Four: finally, remember that it is your interview. You control what you say and the direction the interview is taking."

If Kenny Dalglish would like a copy of that, he has only to give me a call.

SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

□ The nastiest thing about the Olympic Games so far is that horrible scribbled dog thing. It is absolutely everywhere. This is the mascot, that exercise in ghostliness always perpetrated by a major sporting event.

In Atlanta, they are already getting excited about the mascot for the 1996 Olympics. They are handing out badges bearing the word "whatizit". "It could be the name of the mascot," the organizer, Billy Payne, said, adding coyly: "but then it might not be. It could be anything." But what is it? A bird? An animal? An animated sickbag? "How do you define animal?"

Mickey taking

One bit of public relations the United States competitors got a bit wrong in Seoul was the opening ceremony. They swaggared all over the place, swallowing up the nations marching in front and behind them. It was all rather like real life, in fact. This time, they are determined to avoid this no written signs and notices to be carried, no "Hi Mom" screams, no breaking ranks, and absolutely no Mickey Mouse ears.

The fight game

Meanwhile, it is high time I presented a round-up of punching goalkeeper stories. The first involves Pascal Olmeta, the Marseilles goalie. He is arranging to take part in a boxing match against the rugby player, Alain Moscat. Moscat has already had one professional fight behind him, which he lost on points, and he outweighs Olmeta by 98 kilos to 82.

It doesn't look good for the goalie, but goalkeepers have never been famous for their sanity, have they?

Early kick-off

The Olympic Games opening ceremony takes place today. But last night, the football competition got under way, jumping the gun rather. There's a penalty in the pitch, they think it's all started. A Spanish goal was marked, but the referee promptly punched him in the face.

A few days later, when Higuita was playing in Bogotá, a supporter ran onto the pitch, approached him, and punched him. Higuita suffered "light wounds to the arms and head".

Touring party

Nothing that Derek Pringle does is straightforward or obvious. He is organising a Kenyan cricket safari, a heady combination of elephants and matches between the Derek Pringle XI and Kenya. I hope Erlang has as much good fortune as I did when I went searching for the Sokoke scops owl, found only in the Sokoke forest near Mombasa.

Hello again

And this brings us, of course, to René Higuita, an old friend of this column.

Higuita was the Colombian goalie at the last World Cup — the one who cancelled a goal to Cameroon when he was tackled on the halfway line. Higuita has been playing for Valladolid in Spain, but things have not worked out and he returned home. There, he was greeted at the airport by a reporter, Higuita

Pilgrims on the path to happiness

Guislaine Morland and her husband Miles put their hearts and soles into a journey to Mont-St Michel. Sweat and tears later, the walk had changed their lives

Have we been to Mont-St Michel before? I asked Miles. "Don't you remember?" he said. "We were driving to Rouen. I think we had lunch nearby, and we stopped and looked at the view." Nothing, no feeling. So much for car trips. I looked down at the shiny brown monkey faces of my new shoes and concentrated on my footing. We had been following a narrow stone track known as Le Sentier des Douaniers, the Path of the Customs Officers, which crossed a small stream bedded with wild yellow iris, twisting and turning through a wood, then up and down gullies until at last we emerged on the cliffs. The path widened so that when we saw Mont-St Michel it was in the same instant. Even Miles, for once, said nothing. I saw the tears in his eyes, and he saw mine. We'd been walking, talking of this moment, for seven days. He took my hand and we continued, gaze fixed on the hazy blue vision five miles away, a sapphire shimmering in our surprised eyes, the fine and finest thread of the steeple reaching, touching, the skies.

There was a time when pilgrimages were de rigueur. In France, the roads that led to Mont-St Michel were Les Chemins du Paradis. We were following one of these, although today it's a Grande Randonnée, part of the network of hiking paths throughout France. We rested by La Cabane de Vauban, a one-room stone building on the edge of the cliff facing the bay. Way down below, the black shapes of two cormorants were poised on the rocky shore, motionless as priests in prayer. We began the descent like children playing hide and seek, catching the mountain as it moved with the change of terrain, a heavenly staircase floating between the trees, a wedding cake on a plate of poppies, and always the holy arrow quivering in the sky.

We had left England by sea, wanting a long, slow approach to the French coast. Portsmouth, and the memory of home, receded with every wave, responsibilities shrunk until we were just you and me. Miles put an arm around my shoulders, and we watched the grey ceiling slide away like a roof panel to clear skies. We arrived in Cherbourg in the late afternoon and took a taxi to Carteret, on the coast. This meant we could start walking on the beach instead of through Cherbourg suburbs (and knock 20km off the walk), leaving us nine days for 170km. "Easy," Miles said. "In fact, we should be able to take a rest day." Easy for whom, I wondered, but reserved my doubts.

Carteret is a small fishing port, feet on granite. Its back leans against dunes as high as hills and little boys slid down the sides on their stomachs as we stood in marram grass and red valerian looking out to Jersey. We set off the next morning, past hedgerows of elders in flower like an alley of white parasols. Should heaven be freedom, then this is the closest we shall get to it, I thought, like this, walking free.

After a while, our path turned to the sea. A few tractors were parked on the long, wide stretch of tides. Only farmers were there, gathering thick tresses and coils of pink, green, brown popping seaweed for fertilising their fields.

"Let's sing," Miles said. "What have you got?" I had brought sheet music. We had done this once before: three years ago we walked across France from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic, starting on the coast beyond Narbonne, across the Gers, making our own way, ending up in Capbreton, a few miles north

of Biarritz. It took just over three weeks. After that our lives had changed radically. And the urge for something that beckons, never left us. It was then that we had regretted not knowing more than bits of lyrics, bits of melody.

Low-flying shore birds shimmered and banked as one as I pulled out of my belt bag six pages of sheet music. "Um, let's see. I've got 'Yes Sir, That's My Baby' and 'Wonderful Smarvelous' —" Miles interrupted: "You can't march to that." "Well, there's 'The Way You Wear Your Hat', that has a good beat." I'm rather fond of jazz and Broadway songs. Miles adjusted the straps of his rucksack, and somewhat reluctantly joined in, "the way you sip your tea..."

I knew summer was imminent but I lost track of when. By the edge of the sea long stretches of beach were signed with shells and watermarks. We only once had to follow an inland road, where fitness was boring. It was raining, we sang "Bye Bye Blackbird" and our hearts were full nevertheless of a great happiness. The preoccupations of daily life at home became tiny spots in the back of my mind, lost in banks of wild honeysuckle and bramble roses, and I would tease Miles, ever the rationalist, as I discerned a grand theme of things in the dance of landscape, as tantalising as a striptease, and far greater than the paternal figure on an altar. "How are your blisters?" he would ask. "Ain't got none..."

We walked on a woodland path like a green corridor, with windows to the right opening out on meadows, to a mare bent over her sleeping foal, patches of pyramidal orchids, their white-spotted tongues with the one cheeky tooth. One day we lay down on a mossy heath covered in ground roses. Spotted butterflies bounced like little leopards in the air, others like tiny blue petals, white linen handkerchiefs, and some were poised in brown overcoats that revealed fuchsia-coloured skirts when they flew.

One morning a distant blur on the beach turned into a trotting horse. As it came and went, swift as flight, it left nothing but the twin racing lines of its sulky behind. It was early, there was nobody else about, and soon we thought we had dreamt him, as we did later that day when a lone seal popped out of the waves to nuzzle up to a



Travelers: Guislaine and Miles Morland, and their walking route

fisherman's dog swimming in the wake of his master's boat. These small moments swelled into complete worlds of their own. Important, and you felt you owed a thank you. We had a lunch in Portbail, where there is a small 11th-century Roman church. The floor of the baptismal side-chapel is sunk for total immersion, the tiles are painted with fishes and the glass window is engraved: *Sagesse, Science, Crainte, Force, Intelligence, Courage, Foi*. We ate at the restaurant La Galiche. To start with, we had marinated sardines, and home-smoked herring with waxy potatoes. We drank a farmer's cider, apple and dry, refreshing prickles on the tongue. "Why don't we drink this at home?" Miles wondered, then, taking a bite of his next course, said "Mmm, taste one of these" and handed me a baby scallop on a shell no wider than a baby's palm.

We spent a night at the Hotel Neptune in Coutainville. This had three stars on the Government NN rating that goes up to five, according to amenities rather than food or style. One star means lumps in the mattress. Three was as grand as we got, and that was only FRP350 (£36.50).

Early the next morning, we followed the jagged sea wall and promenade out of Coutainville until they stopped, then dunes, heading due south to the Pointe d'Agon, until land stopped too,



where stood a massive arrangement of grey-white granite stones. A Stone Age burial site, perhaps. Each was taller than a man and formed a curve like the ribs of a whalebone. On the end stone was an inscription: *Fernand Lechanteur, "le poète Norman solitaire et farouche"*. As indeed was this shy and wild place.

Propped up against the stones, we rested there while Miles checked our route. Beyond lay the wide expanse of the Havre de Regneville. The tide was low and we decided to risk the estuary. The short cut would save us 5km of walking round. We walked over the tidal sands, mud and shingle, and reached what Miles had gestured as a "puddle". "Ah, the river Sienne. Didn't look so big from back there."

Miles took off his shoes and socks and carried our rucksacks over to a small island. He stood, looking across to the next arm of the Sienne, this being 100 yards wide. "Here goes. Crossing the Congo," he announced, now stripped down to his navy boxer shorts, a rucksack on each shoulder, and already up to his knees. The current swirled around his legs, he sank up to his thighs, slowed down, hesitated, turned upstream, a few more steps, and reached the shore on the other side. I looked at my watch. Not much time before the tide turned. I supposed we could always clamber

aboard one of the many beached fishing boats. I pulled up my skirt and stuffed it into my shirt. "Ready?" Miles was back, dropping to a squat. "Get on my shoulders." I fell off instantly. "Come on, we'll try a fireman's lift. I promised you wouldn't get wet." I stared over Miles's shoulders, down into the current, as he struggled and trembled under my weight, and I wished I had waded, too.

Some days we walked 18km, others 24, and we did take a rest day. In Granville, by then well over half-way, we treated ourselves to the Hotel des Bains, three stars, on a seafloor corner. We had a lazy day wandering around the walled old town on the hill, and later Miles went off to find a quiet place to read and sunbathe in the dunes. I reverted to a favourite pastime and sat in cafés, picking up un petit pain au chocolat on the way.

There is a robust dignity to La Manche, Atlantic Normandy. By the sixth day the difference with the soft Normandy of Calvados distinguished itself. Roofs of shining silver slate, the houses solid, never too tall, always sheltered against the winds, built on shale, sometimes tinged with purple when the rock contains iron, and granite instead of beams and thatch, seldom any châteaux, many farms and manors, all imprinted in memory like slowly developing photographs.

One day we shall return to Anneville, where the owner of Chez Dédé, behind the bar as his daughter walked in from school, said: "Bonjour, ma puce-puce (my little flea)" and they kissed four times on the cheeks. His wife turned to us: "Alors, les petits Anglais, what may I cook for you?" And to Carolles, the Relais de la Diligence, where we were brought a salad that was a head of lettuce gently parted open, complete as a rose in a bowl: St Jean-le-Thomas, the Hotel des Bains, a tumble of roses, peonies, delphiniums in the dining-room, and Avranches, where 12 merry old chaps in blue overalls and berets spilled out of the bar to form their own commemorative parade of the bombardment of their town in the second world war.

The next morning we arrived in Mont-St Michel, dreading the crowd, but the pilgrims of a thousand years know that the vision from the cliffs is best, as we had presumed, the best of it. We walked up the steep main street,

then steps and steps, too many to count, aware of a quiet purpose and beauty undaunted by visitors, to the ramparts, and to our Logis St Pierre near the top. Breathless, we dropped our backpacks and opened the window. Endless sea and sky, roofs, passageways, small terraces at every level, tiny patches of lawn lovingly tended, forget-me-nots in the shade of an arch.

High tide would arrive with the rising moon. After dinner, we walked up to the north rampart. A group had gathered, waiting. A young man spoke to his girlfriend in French, whispering exactly what Miles now said to me: "See that island of sand, and that finger of sand over there, watch..."

and they became night and water. In the morning, we tried to visit the Abbey but were put off by the queues and leering guides. We would return out of season. Then, you can visit alone, night or day, "La Merveille", and the cloisters 80m high on their granite peak.

The bay was sand all the way to the horizon, nine miles away. Birds drew long lines of flight, my eye followed their upward vaulting arcs and figure eights, and for a moment I danced up there too, on the sky's white lake, while my feet ached with longing for being earthbound.

● The Man Who Broke Out of the Bank, by Miles Morland (Bloomsbury, £16.99).

NEXT WEEK

HOME movies, weddings, royal events... have our cameras got too candid? In Monday's Life & Times Paul Barker examines the all-intrusive video culture. Plus Libby Purves on why working life brings out the worst language; and on the 25th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality, Robert Crompton examines the prospects for further reform. Has rock music got too big for its boots? On Tuesday David Sinclair surveys the cult of the megastar

Join Richard Baker on a classical cruise and relax in a sea of music.

The perfect cruise for all classical music lovers sets sail from Southampton on October 19th. Board the Sea Princess to the Mediterranean and enjoy some of the world's finest classical music for 14 captivating nights. By day you will be guided through ports such as Elba, Toulon, Tangier and Naples, where there is an opportunity to go to the island of Ischia to visit the home of Sir William Walton. There you will be entertained with a tour of the house, a sumptuous feast and an afternoon concert. Each night you will be serenaded by an array of famous classical musicians including the Haffner Wind Ensemble and Rimma Susbanskaya. All hosted by Richard Baker OBE. Prices start from £1650. So to ensure your cruise starts and finishes on the perfect note, contact your ABTA Travel Agent or telephone 071-831 1331 now. **P&O**

P & O CRUISES

DRIVER'S GUIDE TO FRANCE, PAGE 9



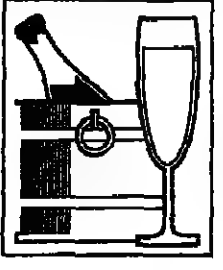
Four-page pull-out section: Car check-list, emergency advice, useful phrases, books to read. Plus, touring by motor cycle

BEST OF BRITANNY, PAGES 10,11



Our Celtic neighbours across the Channel have preserved the unspoilt charm and the robust traditions of their rocky region

WIN A COGNAC WEEKEND, PAGE 17



Fly away for a luxury break among the vines and vineyards of the Charente and learn the secrets of blending the perfect spirit

FILM

BATMAN RETURNS (12): Quirky but no-hum sequel, best when the spotlight falls on (Michelle Pfeiffer's electrifying Catwoman. With Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito; director, Tim Burton. Barbican (071-638 8891) Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys (071-752 3332).

BEETHOVEN (U): Slobbering St Bernard brings disaster and joy to the suburbs. Adequate family comedy. Charles Grodin, Bonnie Hunt; director, Brian Levant. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031).

BELLE DE JOUR (18): Buñuel's 1967 classic about the adventures of a bourgeois wife (Catherine Deneuve). Cool and compelling in a sparkling new print. Jean Sorel, Michel Piccoli; director, Jean Sorel. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031).

THE BEST INTENTIONS (12): Ingrid Bergman's fascinating tale of her parents' turbulent courtship and marriage. Dull direction by Bill August; excellent performances (Pernilla August, Samuel Frider). Gate (071-727 4043) Lumière (071-836 0691).



Splendid villain: Captain Hook from *Peter Pan*

THE BUTCHER'S WIFE (12): Arch villainy about a New York butcher's disreputable wife (Demi Moore), partly salvaged by bright lines and a genial cast. Jeff Daniels, Mary Steenburgen; director, Terry Hughes. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031).

HOWARDS END (PG): Absorbing version of E.M. Forster's novel about two colliding families with different ideals. With Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, Helena Bonham-Carter; director, James Ivory. Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8665) Curzon West End (071-439 4050).

THE LONG DAY CLOSING (12): Terence Davies's powerful evocation of childhood's lost paradise. With Leigh McCormack, Marjorie Yates, and a wonderful aural collage of Fitts Britain. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661).

THE LOVER (18): Jean-Louis Annaud's over-careful, faithfully error: adaptation of Marguerite Yourcenar's autobiographical novel about an adolescent girl's discovery of sex and love in Twentieth-century Indo-China. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-752 3332).

MY COUSIN VINNY (15): Adventures of a novice lawyer defending a murder charge down South. Unfamiliar comic vehicle for Joe Pesci, bright support from Marisa Tomei, Fred Gwynne. Jonathan Lynn directs. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5195) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-436 5148) Odeons Kensington (071-226 3520) West End (071-436 5148) UCI Whiteleys (071-752 3332).

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THE VIRTUOUS: Shadwell's Restoration comedy of bad behaviour, directed with verve by Phyllida Lloyd. The Pit, Barbican Centre, St. Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight, Mon-Thurs, 7.15pm, mat Thurs, 2pm.

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE: Philip Prowse's triumphant RSC production. John Cullis as a callous aristocrat in Wilde's social melodrama. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-370 8860). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

BIRMINGHAM: Dinah Sheridan and Charles Stapley in touring production of *The Kingfisher*, William Douglas Home's comedy about the bachelor novelist, the widow and the butler who reads rather than they played apart. Alexandra, St. James's Street (021-643 1231). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

EDINBURGH: Simon Donald's *The Life of St. Paul*, tough urban comedy about how to build a criminal empire. Apparently inspired by anecdotes gathered in low Scottish pubs. Traverse, Cambridge Street (031-228 1404). Free public dress rehearsal Fri, 8pm; opens Sat, Aug 1, 8pm; then Tues-Sat, 8pm. After August 12 in repertoire with many other Traverse productions for the Festival.

GRAND HOTEL: Musical barley sugar, Berlin in the Twenties. Sentimental, American, entertaining. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 9562). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm.

LADY BE GOOD: Simon Green and Joanna Riding in the Gershwin's famous song and dance show. Bernard Cribbins plays a comic lawyer. Open Air, Regent's Park, NW1 (071-486 2431). Preview, Tues, 8pm; opens Wed, 8pm; then in repertoire.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: Acted in a pool of mud, Robert Lepage's production is loud and murky but irradiated with magical images. National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight, Mon, 7.15pm, mat today, 2pm.

MOTHER TONGUE: A new play by Alan Franks in which ex-patriate Penelope Speller returns to London to live with daughter Gwen Taylor. Greenwiche, Croom's Hill, SE10 (081-458 7755). Preview, Thurs, 7.45pm; opens Aug 3, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

MURDER BY MISADVENTURE: Gerald Harper and William Gaunt play comic writers who fall out and pit their wits against each other: run-of-the-mill thriller. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9887). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm.

PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME!: Affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his carping alter ego. Excellent revival of Brian Friel's first success. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1166). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

THE RECRUITING OFFICER: Nicholas Hytner's good-natured production, rather too good to be true to the play's darker content. National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tues-Thurs, 7.15pm, mat Wed, 2pm.

SHADES: Pauline Collins torn between her child, mum and man in a new play by Simon Callow. Albery, St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

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Men and the language of love

Lynne Truss braced herself for strong stuff in *Men Talk*, but found herself strangely unable to weaken at the knees

WHEN I heard that the kick-off subject for Channel 4's new *Men Talk* on Thursday was to be "The Casanova Complex" I was a little confused. The word "Casanova" seemed somehow to belong to a different era. I thought of maracas and frilly shirts, gaucho pants and big guitars. The name Edmundo Ros came fleetingly to mind. And then I realised, I was thinking of "Bossanova". Gosh, how stupid of me. I mean, for a minute there, I thought a finger-on-the-pulse Channel 4 discussion programme was in danger of setting off entirely on the wrong foot with an outdated phenomenon that barely exists beyond the realms of a few glutty dance halls. Clearly I needed my head examined.

But after half an hour of frank studio discussion from these six young blokes about the nightclub chat-ups of the modern Casanova, I began to think my original notion hadn't been so wide of the mark. Riveting though the entire thing proved to be, the behaviour of the modern Casanova was revealed to be self-evidently moribund and as surely restricted to the dance halls as the Latin-American society band. Seduction is a lost art: Don Juan is in hell. Our modern lothario goes to a club, shoots a glance at a girl, she shoots one back. He says, "Want a drink?" She remarks, "Ooh, nice tan". They leave together in a taxi, and that's about it. Except to mention that the jaunty infamously from *Pinochio* "I got no strings" is audible throughout in the background.

Being a woman, I had braced myself for stronger stuff from *Men Talk*: the sordid revelations of the locker-room, where men traditionally (so I'm told) snicker together about how easy it is to pull women by flattery and lies. I expected to cream tissues in my mouth to prevent squeals of horror. In the course of the week I even limbered up for *Men Talk* by re-reading a devastating short story by William Trevor (partly anthologised in the new *Chatto Book of Office Life*) in which a nasty married man seduces a naive new secretary, selecting her on the simple criterion that she is plain. "Everyone knew that Gordon Spelle chose girls: who were unattractive because he believed such girls, deprived of sex for long periods of time, were an easier bet." Imagine my disappointment.

TV REVIEW

then, when "Want a drink?" "Ooh, nice tan" emerged as the most despicable transaction in the modern seduction handbook. But I am neglecting my duty. You want to meet the guys. Who, for example, is this cocky character with the legs set permanently so wide apart that he will have to be buried in a Y-shaped coffin? This is Will, and he is the star of our show. Twenty-three years old and described as a stockbroker, Will boasts of his technique with the ladies ("I laugh them into bed"), and he is disproportionately proud of his tan. His trade secret is that he sneaks a look at the membership records of the club he frequents, which means he can access strange women with the words, "By the way, your name is so-and-so, and your address is such-and-such". Evidently this puts women at their ease. Which is strange, really, because it must sound as though he is remanding them in custody.

Will is the centre of attention: we are invited to judge his lifestyle. He sits alongside Warren, a gay man with a five o'clock shadow on his scalp where his hair ought to be, who admits to a similar sexual pattern of one-night stands. Opposite are Howard, a reformed ladies' man with an Essex accent; Robert, a monogamous journalist who looks disgruntled and unconvinced by the whole thing, with his arms folded and legs crossed; and Duncan, whose role is unclear until one reads in the *Daily Mirror* that he represents celibacy. Richard Jobson, as host, encourages a joshing, all-boys-together sort of tone, which ensures that nothing turns nasty, but also ensures that it doesn't get serious or analytical either. At one point he asks Will if he knows where the club is. It is a landmark in gratuitous insult.

Presumably the idea was to discuss man's role in modern seduction — assuming that seduction is a modern concept. "Good in bed, hot in the sack, great between the sheets," Jobson said, at the start of the show. "Is that how men like to think of themselves, or are we sick and tired of making the role of sexual initiator?" But nobody addressed this question, because it didn't deserve an answer.

Seduction doesn't really exist any more, now that women have a choice in the matter. Either a woman gives consent (and shares



Men with their fingers on the pulse of seduction: from left, Warren, Will, Richard Jobson (host), Howard, Robert and Duncan

the sense of power-play), or she doesn't give consent, which makes it rape. Men still lie to women, of course, but mostly it isn't necessary. The *Men Talk* Casanovas had little to boast about, really. If the transaction is as straightforward as they suggest. Not much effort required, when you are pushing against an open door. The skilful bit must surely be getting to the taxi before ardour cools.

Why was it so fascinating to watch, then? Partly for the reason that, as Somerset Maugham once said, there is hardly anyone whose sexual life, if it were broadcast, would not fill the world at large with surprise and horror. Pure voyeurism plays a large part.

What are they like, these specimens who pride themselves on being the good time that was had by all? As a viewer, you squint at Will in particular, trying to imagine the well-oiled effect of his

laser-beam eye-contact (I clutched at my bowels; did they leap? Did they? But ultimately understanding perfectly why no woman has attempted to tie him down. It is absorbing, too, to watch the vivid reaction-shots — blank looks, sneers of disbelief, open-mouthed incomprehension — which often say more about these blokes than the actual words they speak.

The language is sometimes quite brutal, though. "On the pull", "Getting in there". When Will is asked whether the girls who go to bed with him are "gullible and a bit naïve", he says he prefers them to be "fresh young things with nice firm bodies" (though he is far too young to give this any sinister impact: it needs rheumy eyes and senile drool for the full effect).

Then Warren weighs in with how tiresome it is when you wake up next to a stranger in the morning who demands coffee and a

bath. "That can be very irritating," he avers. Poor baby. Warren has clearly never heard the adage, "It is better to have loved and had to make a cup of Nescafé in the morning than never to have loved at all".

Love was mentioned just once, when Howard announced (at the risk of sounding "poncey") that he was in love, and that this made the sex very nice indeed. In the inevitable tussle for "Viewer's Favourite", Howard was an easy victor, and admitting to "love" was his master stroke. What a sweet guy: what a cute ear-ring. He seduced the audience brilliantly, by assuring the female viewers that he would always put their pleasure above his own.

But Howard's winning ways (compared with Will's more self-centred bragging) had their negative aspect, too: they raised the awful spectre of the broken heart. Did all Howard's ex-lovers sigh happily when they saw him on

Men Talk, thinking, "That was so nice; shame it was only once, but that's life", or did they burst into tears and mutely wave a big beaker of marmite at the screen?

There are so many things one doesn't understand, as a mere woman. The only thing that seems obvious is that if there are young men who go "on the pull" and do it successfully, then there must be plenty of young women for them to do it with. Will said quite clearly that he gets all his lovers from the same club, where he is well known, so the pick-up suddenly looks about as remarkable (and sexy) as going shopping in Sainsbury's and buying new breakfast cereal by picking it off the shelf. "Hi, your name is Kellogg's All-Bran; fancy coming back to my place?" The only difference is in the level of personal commitment required. Because, as any fool knows, All-Bran sticks around for weeks.

TV PREVIEW

Antenna: The Beastly Truth

(Monday, BBC2, 8pm)
Winston Churchill is supposed to have said: "Odd things, animals. All dogs look up to you. All cats look down on you. Only a pig looks at you as an equal." American science writer Stephen Budiansky puts forward the controversial notion that Mr Pig has the right idea: animals exploit humans just as much as humans exploit them.

Not totally convincing at first glance, I grant you. Hard to imagine the satisfaction animals derive from vivisection, for example. One remembers an ancient cartoon by Nick Newman: two beagles escaping from an animal experiment laboratory. "This is all very well," says one, "but what are we going to do for fags?"

Secret History: The Hidden Holocaust

(Monday, Channel 4, 9pm)
Last year's Sunday night series of dramatic monologues, *In My Defence* (BBC2), ended with Edward Woodward in the role of Gourgen Vanikien, a real-life Armenian American, who famously shot dead two Turkish diplomats in California in 1973. For years he had been telling the story of the 1915 Armenian massacres ("the hidden holocaust"), and in the end he murdered, just to be heard.

Secret History tells the whole harrowing story (still denied by official Turkish sources), including contemporary footage of Armenians being marched into the Syrian desert to their deaths. Journalist Robert Fisk describes the discovery of a mass grave containing 50,000 bodies.

The True Adventures of Christopher Columbus

(Tuesday, BBC2, 8pm; also Wednesday, 7.50pm; Thursday, 8.10pm; Friday, 7.35pm)
Best-known as Desmond Oliver Dingle of the National Theatre of Brent (who coined the immortal "All the world's a globe"), Patrick Barlow specialises in 1066 and *All That* versions of history and is responsible for some of the funniest stuff on stage in the past ten years. This Columbus mini-series recruits Tim Pigott-Smith and Miranda Richardson as Ferdinand and Isabella, and ought to be hilarious. It ought also to prove, incidentally, that all the world's a globe.

999

(BBC1, Thursday 9.30pm)
This is irresistible, since it includes the amazing story of the South Wales man who recently managed to land a small aircraft after his pilot died suddenly at the controls. I remember the radio news, solemnly describing the man as someone who "had flown before, but only as a passenger".

L.T.

Record review: Super Cat, Arturo Sandoval, Joe Henderson, Felicity Lott and Ann Murray

A quick 'toast' to reggae tradition

Rap music, which rolled out like a tidal wave from the black ghettos of New York and Los Angeles to engulf the mainstream pop charts in the 1980s, left reggae all but washed up in its wake.

However, since the emergence of Shabba Ranks as an international star in the 1990s (his album *As Raw As Ever* sold half-a-million copies in America and won a Grammy award), reggae is suddenly big news again. In the vanguard of a new wave of sharp and credible reggae stars is Super Cat whose new album, *Don Dada*, (Columbia 471570 2) is released on Monday.

Mr Cat is self-possessed and businesslike. His hair is cropped close, he wears a huge diamond-studded ring and a watch with diamonds and he never, ever smiles. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, where he became a leading light of the new "dance-hall" style of reggae, he is aged 29 and lives in New York, where he is hoping to become an even bigger star.

His album, for all its modern cachet, is steeped in the old Jamaican DJ tradition of

"toasting", the quick-fire patois poetry from which, ironically, rap was initially derived. It has a more brightly feel than conventional reggae, almost rushed at times, and leans less heavily on an over-cranked bass guitar for its distinctive rhythmic effect.

"It's the first album seriously to mix hip hop and reggae," Mr Cat explains, and you can hear what he means right from the opening cut, "Them No Worry We", which features New York rapper Heavy D. Although it undoubtedly sounds fresh and bears a much closer relevance to the political issues and street sounds of the 1990s, *Don Dada* is depressingly bereft of melody. In much the same way that rap glorifies in its unmelodic, declamatory style of vocals, so the hardcore dance-hall style reduces reggae almost entirely to rhythm and rhyme; all harangue and no harmony.

For those who prefer to recall the golden era of mainstream reggae there are two



On the hip-hop: Super Cat marries rap with reggae

excellent value compilations released this month. *Dancing on Sunshine* — 22 Classic Reggae Hits (Virgin 515 519-2) collects a bunch of the most obvious Top 20 hits by acts such as UB40 and Chrissie Hynde ("I Got You Babe"). Johnny Nash ("I Can See Clearly Now") and 10cc ("Dreadlock Holiday"), while

Celebration — *The Best of Reggae* (Trojan/Quality QTVCD 010) is a double-CD which maps out the high points of the esteemed Trojan label with landmark recordings by Desmond Dekker and The Upsetters among many other languid treats.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Disciples raise the dead

JAZZ

An annual crowd-puller at Ronnie Scott's, Arturo Sandoval is a contender for the title of fastest fingers in the universe.

"The Flight of the Bumble Bee" might have been written especially for this classically trained trumpeter. Seeing him in full flight in concert is a heady experience, even when — as in recent visits to London — he has been content to play disposable Latin fusion.

Until now the excitement has been lost in the studio. With *I Remember Clifford* (GRP Records GRP-96682), an imaginatively conceived and brilliantly executed tribute to Clifford Brown, the Cuban virtuoso has finally done himself justice.

Brown was aged only 25 when he was killed in a car crash in 1956, but he was already recognised as one of the most gifted trumpeters since Louis Armstrong. The quintet he co-led with the drummer Max Roach took bebop to a level of sophistication rarely attained even by today's prodigies.

Sandoval has more than enough skill to reproduce a chorus note for note: the real trick is to catch the nuances and the rare sense of effortlessness. He rises to the occasion as he reshapes tunes like "Joy Spring" and "Saudu". The other musicians mesh perfectly, with honours going to that under-rated saxophonist Ernie Watts.

Sandoval's album has a slight edge over *Lush Life* (Verve 511779), Joe Henderson's homage to Billy Strayhorn, who was Duke Ellington's alter ego.

Henderson diligently explores the harmonic possibilities in ten Strayhorn compositions. There is much to admire here, but Henderson's dry, pebbly tone does not always touch the romantic core of Strayhorn's music.

CLIVE DAVIS



QUILTY SECRETS: NIGEL WEST

"I'm very keen on the zany humour of Rowan Atkinson and Rik Mayall: they do and say the unthinkable and play with the English language. In everyday conversation people lie; someone will say, 'I don't wish to be offensive, but...' and then go on to be profoundly offensive. I like the way that Rowan Atkinson in *Blackadder* and Rik Mayall in *The Young Ones* and *The New Statesman* expose this kind of nonsense."

● Murder in the Commons, by Nigel West (Rupert Allason, MP for Torbay), was published yesterday by Macmillan, price £13.99.

L.T.

High spirits and raised voices

There are few smoother vocal partnerships than that of Felicity Lott and Ann Murray. There is no hint of upstaging: all is sweet harmony in their second recital on disc, *On Wings of Song* (EMI CDC 7 54411 2). But they owe a lot to the man who is their accompanist and who assembles their recital programmes, Graham Johnson.

He ensures that affairs never become too bland. A soulful set of Mendelssohn duets is quickly followed by high-spirited Rossini. Or perhaps mock Rossini: the "Cans Duet", made famous by Schwarzkopf and de los Angeles, may not have been by him.

French song at its most sensuously languid — Gounod and Massenet to the fore — has Balfé, robust and brawny, right on its heels. Brinen!

Purcell and plain Britten frame the continentals in a delectable assembly for mid-summer listening.

The only singer in *A Table in Montmartre* (EMI CDP 7 99103 2) likely to aspire to operatic status is Tino Rossi, a Corsican whose high tenor sometimes suggests Tito Schipa. Alas, here he is represented by a maudlin vocal version of a very familiar Chopin Etude.

The other tracks drawn mainly from great French music-hall singers, such as Jean Sablon and Yvette Guiland, contain many pleasures, especially from the 1930s and the immediate post-war years when cabaret flowered again.

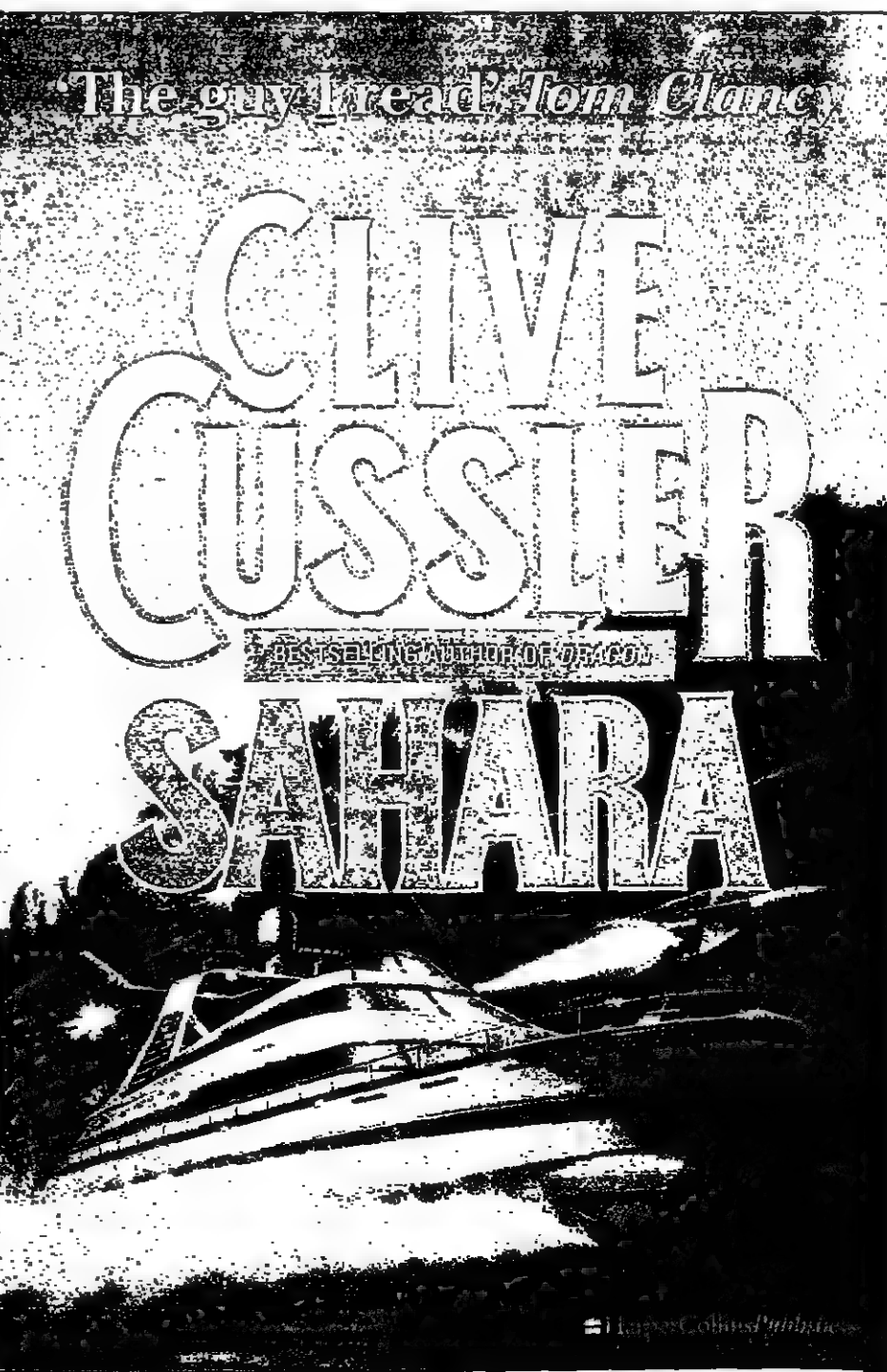
Two of the choicest tracks are among the most curious. The 20-year-old Charles Trenet teams up with Johnny Hess, as a duo inevitably called Charles et Johnny, in a zippy, witty number called "Sous Le Lit de Lili", which really swings. Lyrics by Trenet. And there is a rarity (to me) by Harry Fragson, a Belgian-born Leon Pot in Soho. In London he made famous "Hello, hello, who's your lady friend", but he had a Paris career as well until he was shot by his father in a dispute. It is reckoned, over another and mutual lady friend.

The month's most important operatic recital comes from Mirella Freni on Decca, *Verismo Arias* (433 316-2). She certainly deserves credit for devoting much of the record to Italian composers

now little heard outside their own country and in some cases not very often there: Zandonai, Alfano, Catalani. In some cases the words are all too verismo: "Giunge il treno" (The train is arriving) from Alfano's *Risurrezione* sounds like a station announcement. Sometimes the music is a bit banal too.

However, the real problem is a sense of sameness, with arias beginning with forbidding noises from the lower strings (Roberto Abbado and the Fenice Orchestra) and ending on a cry of anguish from the heroine. Freni is expert at the latter, but elsewhere the vibrato in her soprano, noted in last month's *Tosca* on Deutsche Grammophon, becomes too intrusive.

JOHN HIGGINS



Fast-forward to South Bank clip joint

David Toop previews a survey of pop promotional films since their first appearance, back in 1899

Our conception of hell needs constant revision. Little horned devils, flames and pitchforks, a bedsit in East Chiswick, even the idea that hell is other people — these ancient images have been superseded. The new Hades is called pop videos. Conveniently, London's Museum of the Moving Image has assembled a historical overview of the phenomenon for us to contemplate our possible fate in the next world. The *Im-Bru Pop Video Exhibition* claims to be the definitive selection of pop videos since 1899. Definitive is pitching it a bit strong, but think of a pop video which has imprinted itself on your mind during the last 93 years and the Momi exhibition will almost certainly be showing it.

For my taste, another viewing of the Peter Gabriel clip in which his face undergoes rapid transformations into vegetables and train sets would be more than sufficient. Much more. Nevertheless, for anyone with even a passing interest in pop culture, the South Bank is the place to be.

The term "pop video" suggests something electronic, designed to enmesh itself digitally into the ceaseless slow programming of satellite television. This is a misapprehension. Pop videos are simply technological updates of promotional clips which aim to illustrate the lyrics of a song or enhance the mood of an instrumental.

This aim is not always successful. The sort of baffling narrative chaos and inane

mugging to camera which typifies the more artistically bereft pop videos are sometimes blamed for declining educational standards, juvenile crime, "ram-raiding" and the death of science graduates. A few minutes spent in front of a vast walnut cabinet called the Panoram, set at the entrance to the Momi display, will correct the impression that the world is getting worse.

The size of a Welsh dresser, this primitive video jukebox of the Forties shows so-called sing-films. These scratchy monochrome mini-movies, particularly the jazz Soundies, can be fascinating. I found myself watching a hillbilly band performing "Buffalo Gals", the song which Malcolm McLaren transformed into a global hip-hop hoedown during the eclectic Eighties. Despite the advanced age of the clip, the authenticity of the performers, the absence of post-modern stylistic devices, jump-cuts or Plasticine animation, and its intrinsic interest to pop archivists, "Buffalo Gals" proves to be stubbornly idiotic.

There is some comfort for historical pessimists, for the next exhibit is a later device called the Scopitone — a cumbersome French machine dating from the late Fifties and early Sixties. The purpose of this visual jukebox was to show lurid colour clips of immobile, slick-haired men in dinner suits, crooning to blonde starlets wearing synthetic fabrics. Two of these watched in quick succession can make Def Leppard's video for "Let's Get Rocked" seem as



Nice video, shame about the stage work: ABC in a video-clip for "Poison Arrow", a hit single for the group in 1982, included in the Momi show

innovative as Eisenstein's *Battleship Potemkin*.

Although many of the films shot to accompany pop songs in the Sixties involved young men wandering about in fields, there were flashes of inspiration. Bob Dylan's droll performance of "Subterranean Homesick Blues", extracted from D.A. Pennebaker's *Don't Look Back*, has become famous thanks to the witty television commercials which have imitated it. The

Kinks film for "Dead End Street" was the type of thing we might describe as gritty realism, also common on our television screen these days, but in 1966 it was banned for being distasteful.

Naturally, the core of the show is the Eighties, when pop singles were reinvented and teen idols reconstituted. Duran Duran, Visage, Wham!, ABC and Ultravox all seem to have been born inside television sets. Swathed in clouds

of dry ice and searchlight beams, sprawling on tropical beaches or draped with gorgeous women and ridiculous clothes, these acts blossomed on video. Elsewhere, they were often hoaxes.

The ideal environment for artistic material of this particular genre is the corner of a large room. The television sound should be muted and the viewer preferably engaged in a diversionary activity such as dusting, cleaning mirrors or

reading. At Momi, they cover an entire wall, as well as appearing simultaneously on a Laser juke machine. Visitors are able to press a button for their own choice of video. I chose Madonna's "Vogue" but lost patience while waiting, due to an intervening Billy Joel clip.

All exhibitions must have glass cases. What a pity that pop memorabilia looks so forlorn in such a setting. Madonna's basque, worn for

the Blonde Ambition tour but now brown and ancient in appearance, seemed more suited to the Tower of London. Elsewhere, there were shoes from Tommy, a Phil Collins *Spitting Image* puppet and, most tacky of all, a tin space-man, which turned out to be an MTV Video Music Award.

The *Im-Bru Pop Video Exhibition*, Museum of the Moving Image, Waterloo Bridge, London SE1 0TJ (928 3535), until January. £5.50, various concs.

ROCK CONCERT

Walking on airs

Pavement
Waterfront, Norwich

PAVEMENT have two drummers, members who live on opposite coasts of America and influences, they claim, that extend from Yes to The Fall. They are a mess, but a highly entertaining and deceptively clever one.

Their knowing quirkiness has won them a following in the pop papers and their new album, *Slanted and Enchanted*, has topped the "alternative" charts, with its enigmatic lyrics and ingenious concoction of musical references. But their most distinctive quality is cheery ambivalence to their job.

The band ambles on stage in a fine collection of ill-fitting trousers and T-shirts and eventually drifts into a performance. At the front stands the songwriter and lead singer, Steve Malkmus, who manages a reasonable imitation of concentration. Behind him, though, his fellow guitarist, bassist and drummers continually threaten chaos. The set is animated by good-natured exchanges about what and when to play, false starts and abrupt ends.

Despite all this, they produce a string of short songs, with melodies which surface from the noise and with arrangements which are restlessly varied. Songs such as "Trigger Cut" and "Summer Babe" make splendidly perverse pop. Others mix a Californian wackiness with New York weirdness. In "Conduit for Sale", Malkmus delivers the monologue of a deranged estate agent, while drummer Bob Nastanovich chants maniacally: "I'm tired."

Their show ends in gently mocking imitation of Peter Townshend: guitars are swung lamely at the speaker cabinets, as if warming up for a game of softball. It is hard not to admire a group that disarm and unnerve simultaneously. If there is a market for passionate frivolity, Pavement have cornered it.

JOHN STREET

Hilary Finch reports from the annual Savonlinna Opera Festival, in Finland

The Finns are focused on freedom

Savonlinna, a name which translates as "the castle of the Savo people", in the lakeland borders of Karelia, is the site of a festival which put Finnish opera on the international map once and for all. Aulis Salonen's *The King goes forth to France* came to Covent Garden from Savonlinna, and the courtyard of King Olaf's medieval castle has seen the premieres of major Finnish works as well as formidable productions of *Aida* and *The Flying Dutchman*. This year, celebration was in the air.

In the 75th year of Finnish independence — noisily, if incidentally, hailed by much kantele and accordion playing by the lake — the Savonlinna Festival celebrates its 25th anniversary. The veteran punter will know that the festival is really 80 years old; but after hibernation during years of depression and war, 1967 saw the start of a new era in the festival's history.

On July 16 that year *Fidelio* rose, phoenix-like, to symbolise the festival's own reawakening. Jorma Hynninen was in the chorus. Twenty-five years on to the day, a new *Fidelio* heralded the next chapter in Savonlinna's history, as Finland's great dramatic baritone takes over as festival director.

Hynninen has plans to tighten the focus of festival productions which have been showing a tendency to sprawl in both quality and quantity over the last three or four years. He is also keen to make greater use of the Retretti Arts Centre, a unique underground cave complex of galleries and potential performance spaces, including a fine, rock-hewn concert hall.

Fidelio was certainly an auspicious beginning to his reign. Consistently well cast, this new production by August



Austrian dramatic soprano Renate Behle as Leonore in *Fidelio*; her voice "proved as true as her heart"

Everding (designer, Mark Väisänen) resisted the temptation to make a Savonlinna spectacular of Beethoven's great escape opera, while exploiting space and resources to the full.

The dungeons, towers, and long, dripping walkways of Olavinlinna courtyard theatre provided their own potent stage presence. More telling, though, than the grim watchtowers and the slow opening of each dark door for the prisoners' chorus to the light, was the close psychological focus of Everding's production.

Seldom has Savonlinna's wide space contracted so powerfully to the inner dilemma of each character; seldom has the score itself, here conducted by Leif Segerstam, suffered so few longeurs. Here was the intense individual striving of a trio of characters to be true to

themselves: Marzelline (a spirited Riika Hakola) in the face of a Jaquino (Risto Saarman) pugnacious enough to rape her given half the chance; Leonore in her uncompromising self-isolation; Florestan in his refusal to kill hope.

Seldom, too, is *Fidelio* such an unmitigated joy for the ear. Savonlinna had hired in the Austrian Renate Behle a dramatic soprano whose voice was as true as her heart. It would soar out of ensembles, only to settle in a chilling monotone in anticipation of the hope it saluted so radiantly.

Jyri Niskanen was an unknown quantity as Florestan, taking over, as he did, for an indisposed Seppo Ruohonen. He proved himself a tenor lyrical enough to sing of spring with freshness, while

having all the reserves of power for a searing cry of "Gott weh! Dunkel hier!" I found it a true *nemesis* *Freude* to hear the great duet of reconciliation sung in gleaming time and tune. Esa Ruutinen as a Goebels look-alike Pizarro, and the carpet-slithering Rocco, his latent violence so powerfully portrayed by Marko Pukkonen, sustained their own perverse integrity.

August Everding's *The Magic Flute* had for 17 years been as much a part of the Savonlinna townscape as the Cafe Papageno and the Restaurant Sarastro. Although it was supposed to have been finally put to sleep in 1989, it was reincarnated once more for this anniversary year in a visually much simplified form. All that remained of this most festive production were the corn-dolly trees and door-arches. Sarastro's sunlight shone only in Matti Salminen's ebullient bass and in Jorma Silvasti's heroic resolve as Tamino.

Even when a Savonlinna revival is less than inspiring, there are invariably voices for the sparing. This time it was the *Panama* of Soile Isokoski, a recent finalist in the Cardiff Young Singer of the World contest, who compelled attention in phrasing which glowed with intelligence and pure colour.

There was Jorma Hynninen himself as the Speaker; and this Queen of the Night was worth hearing, too. Anna-Kristina Kaapola, although nowhere proclaimed as such, is a young blind coloratura soprano of still tentative stage presence, but of true and luminous musicianship. Hans Graf conducted the newly robust Savonlinna Festival Orchestra in a production which must now be finally laid to rest.

plans for the future. Crop-haired and unshaven, with his striped pyjamas giving him an unnerving resemblance to European victims, Alex Harland harangues his wife, the doctors, the nephew and finally us with his resolve to go back to that unnamed town and show his scars once more.

Betsuyaku keeps him on this same course too long, too insistently, and though the presence of an open razor brings its own tension the character of the nephew diminishes to that of a mere stooge. The wife (Pamela Merrick), with whom he shares some excellent prosaic talk about radishes, worthy of Ionesco, has disappeared from the play by now. A trim of 15 minutes would be wise, because elsewhere the company skilfully tackles unfamiliar material that might bring us closer to a theatre of which we know little.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Comment: Benedict Nightingale on West End Theatre parking

Lines too hard to be learnt

You decide to see *Grand Hotel*, or *From a Jack to a King*, or even *The Mousetrap*. So you drive into the West End and, as you have probably done many times before, you look for a single yellow line or a meter bay, knowing that after 6.30 you can freely park your car there for the evening.

But here is a surprise. The single yellow lines in and around the north end of Shaftesbury Avenue all seem to have become double yellow lines. Never mind. There is an empty bay in Covent Garden. You have no reason to suppose that the small print on the meter has just changed, so you do not read it. You park, eat, have a marvellous time at the theatre and then come out to find your car has been clamped or towed away. Somebody, somewhere, has decided to ruin your evening.

That anonymous somebody is presumably to be found gleefully rubbing his hands at Camden Town Hall and it is not just the pleasure of scattered individuals he and his colleagues have recently started to destroy. They are seriously adding to the worries of our recession-hit theatre managers, and all without having consulted or even informed them about their decision to make motorists pay for meters until 8.30pm and to prevent them parking almost anywhere else even after that time. "We found out about these changes by pure accident," says a senior officer at

the Society of West End Theatre. "We are very upset indeed. It could be catastrophic." There is one plus. At least the changes will add urgency to negotiations currently going on about the opening of London theatres on Sundays. But the minutes far outweigh that possible gain. With top tickets moving towards £30 each, an evening out in the West End is already pretty costly. Now hundreds of parking spaces have been lost. Will theatregoers also tolerate the misery of a vastly intensified battle for the few that are left?

Taxis are elusive and far from cheap. Late-night tubes are sparse and often packed with rowdies. On many lines last trains out of London leave before curtains have fallen. Car-parks are few, crammed, and outrageously expensive. The adjoining borough, Westminster, has no plans to change its 6.30pm deadline or double up its single yellow lines, but it is likely to increase street space for residents and has already let the IRA cow it into banning parking in the Whitehall area. Add an influx of refugee motorists from Camden, and what chance will we have of leaving our cars within reach of St Martin's Lane?

A change in parking regulations may sound trivial, but its implications for the theatre are considerable. Not only will it make potential audiences more inclined to stay at home with their television sets. It is already causing anxieties for

musicians who must bring heavy instruments to and from the theatre, technicians who have work to do after the performance, and actresses who understandably think it unsafe to walk home from the tube or train. Not that such arguments are likely to make much impact on the apparatus in Camden. Even when *Sweet* pointed out that the elderly and disabled would effectively be banished from the West End, their flimsy hearts remained unmoved.

Why have they done it? Concern for the peace and quiet of the area's residents — those millions of men, women and children living in its shops, offices, restaurants and theatres — seems to be the official explanation. But the real reason is surely a combination of bureaucratic officiousness and a kilijoy mentality. These meddlers are the new puritans, descendants of the men who forced Shakespeare's players out of the centre of London and south of the Thames, lest they contaminate their nice, neat city.

We should not accept their busybodying passively, but being supine English people, we will. And that makes it even more necessary for *Sweet* and *Equity* to reach a sensible agreement about performances on Sunday afternoon. At least there will be one day when the area should be quiet enough for parking to be just about possible.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Classical music scores a hit

Pavarotti packs a stadium as easily as Michael Jackson. The Olympics will open, not to the sound of Elton John, but to José Carreras. There is an appetite around for this stuff: classical music is fast becoming popular music. Even the pop magazine *Q* covers new classical releases...

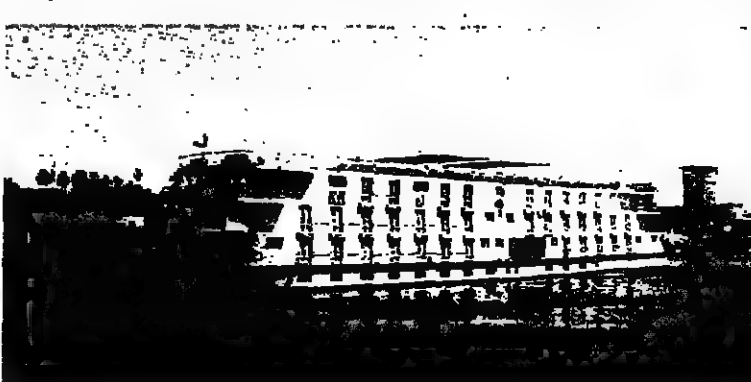
David Mills on the rise of classical music — in *The Sunday Times* Review, tomorrow

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TIM KEENAN's Wave Theatre is "dedicated to producing high quality English-language versions of modern Japanese plays". The opening production is a logical choice, a play by Betsuyaku Minoru showing the psychological effects of the Hiroshima bomb and first produced in Tokyo in 1962. It is described as a landmark in 20th-century Japanese theatre, and British audiences can pick up something of its shock effect, because, psychologically, Hiroshima is a landmark for all.

The director has hung the

walls of the stage and auditorium with white sheets, which on the stage suggest the corner of a maze; tall mirrors in two of the doorways add to the unsettling effect. In the mid-Fifties, the period of the play, a shift of feeling appears to have occurred regarding people who were scarred by the nuclear blast and survived. Once horrific reminders, and then tourist attractions, their grim stories and present plight began to seem not quite bang up to the minute. In this play two victims experience the bewilderment this causes. Man and his nephew, invalid.

The young invalid is not obviously an invalid at the start, and Keenan's direction catches in that first scene the distinct and unusual style of writing (translated by David Goodman) that is more interesting than the naturalism which later takes over, poetic, definite about something though it is not clear what. Sheltering under a red umbrella, Jonathan Coyne's face is gaunt but not especially mobile, yet his voice is profoundly expressive, sometimes speaking under his breath. He takes the fatalist approach to calamity whereas Man denies the end with crazy

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Magical mystery scoop

National Ice-cream week has prompted a Torquay parlour to add yet another flavour to its novel lick list, Fiona Beckett says

National Ice-cream week starts today, and in Peter and Suzanne Redstone's Torquay ice-cream parlour, Rocombe Farm, it is being marked by a revival of some of their best-loved specials — such as Licorice and Pernod, Orange and Cardamom and Rocombe Rubble — and a new mystery flavour.

Since they started offering daily specials on June 16, 1988, the Redstones have dreamt up more than 1,450 different varieties.

Their quest for novelty has led to some bizarre combinations. There have been Coconut Malibu Pineapple, Apple Calvados Ginger Biscuits, Amaretto Kit Kat, Clotted Cream Mango Cumin, Fudge Fingers Peanut Butter, Nutmeg Rice Pudding and the unforgettable Banana, Honey and Peanut Ripple, and Jelly Worm.

If you can imagine a flavour, the Redstones are likely to have realised it. There have been ice-creams named after 1960s songs — Melow Yellow (saffron and Southern Comfort) and A Whiter Shade of Pale (pure mint with white chocolate chip and meringue), and after Agatha Christie novels — Sparkling Cyanide (champagne, brandy and toasted almonds) and Orient Express (Turkish delight and pistachio).

There have been both triumphs (honey and Toblerone) and disasters (Marmite and peanut butter), although Mr Redstone, an ice-cream fanatic, is reluctant to admit that there is any such thing as a failed ice-cream. "No ice-cream can be unspeakably bad," he says. "There's always someone who will want to try it. Admittedly, with the Marmite and peanut butter there were only two, the pregnant lady who begged us to make it, and one of our relief milkers."

"We tried a smoked trout, avocado and wild mint ice-cream a while back. Let's say it was a flavour tasted more than it was bought."

The Redstones started in the ice-

cream business five years ago to supplement the income from their small organic dairy farm in the nearby village of Stokeinteignhead. "I had always wanted to make the kind of ice-cream I remember having as a child in New England," says Mrs Redstone, who is American. "We kept on going on about it until our eldest daughter, Rebecca, said: 'You always say what you want to do and you never do it. That was it.'"

They opened a small shop in Torquay for the summer, where they made ice-cream in front of the customers. "We thought if we showed people it was freshly made using pure ingredients they would want to buy it," Mr Redstone says. The shop was so successful that they had to close early because they'd run out of ingredients. They found permanent premises the following year and have not looked back.

The specials started by accident when Mr Redstone, bored with the existing range of flavours, flung some cinnamon and biscuits into the basic mixture and created a new ice-cream. The next day he produced coffee chocolate chip and the following day melon. "After a few days people started coming in and asking what the special was," he says. "It suddenly clicked that this was fantastic fun."

The development of the (honey and Toblerone) and disasters (Marmite and peanut butter), although Mr Redstone, an ice-cream fanatic, is reluctant to admit that there is any such thing as a failed ice-cream. "No ice-cream can be unspeakably bad," he says. "There's always someone who will want to try it. Admittedly, with the Marmite and peanut butter there were only two, the pregnant lady who begged us to make it, and one of our relief milkers."

"We tried a smoked trout, avocado and wild mint ice-cream a while back. Let's say it was a flavour tasted more than it was bought."

The Redstones started in the ice-



Cool taste sensation: Rocombe Farm's unique flavours have included Coconut Malibu Pineapple, Clotted Cream Mango Cumin and the enticing Jelly Worm

successes of the 1960s week was Twist and Shout, a combination of Twix and stout. "Guinness makes quite a nice ice-cream," Mr Redstone says. "If only the colour wasn't so unappealing."

The wackiness of the Rocombe Farm product range distracts from the fact that the ice-cream is seriously good. The base is made with full cream milk from the Redstones' herd of grass-fed Jersey cows, fresh double cream, free-range eggs and unrefined cane sugar, and contains no artificial additives or colourings.

The basic range of 60 flavours which the Redstones supply to more than 200 shops and restaurants includes standard favourites such as vanilla, chocolate, chocolate chip and super chocolate choc chip, strawberries 'n' cream and bananas 'n' cream, a sinfully alcoholic rum and raisin, and a lemon meringue which would melt the



Dripping with ideas: Suzanne and Peter Redstone

heart of the most implacable ice-cream phobic. It costs 80-85p for a single cone and from £2.95 to £3.50 for a half-litre tub.

At their own small corner shop opposite the town hall the smell of freshly baked cones draws in a steady stream of customers — from elderly locals in search of the flavours of their youth to a gaggle of summer language students. Brightly painted Jersey cows adorn the walls, hand-painted by Mrs

Redstone who also designs all the packaging and merchandising material. The Redstones strongly believe in providing a year-round service to the locals, not just to the tourist trade.

Earlier this year the couple's enterprise was recognised when they won the ADAS Food Marketing Award. Still more prestigious in the eyes of the locals, they have acted as consultants to The Archers, providing the technical expertise behind Pat's organic ice-cream making venture.

They have made ice-creams and sorbets for the five-star Imperial at Torquay, including pink grapefruit and gorgonzola (happily not combined), and have invited well-known chefs, such as Shaun Hill of Gidleigh Park, to create ice-creams for them (a comparatively restrained prunes in armagnac).

But nothing gives the Redstones quite such a buzz as creating a new ice-cream themselves. They have

recently expanded into frozen yoghurts, creating a whole new world of flavour combinations. "What we've realised is that ice-cream can not only be good, it can be fantastic," Mr Redstone says. "I like banana. Fresh banana ice-cream is one of life's peak experiences."

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shallow tray or ice-cream machine. Freeze for two to three hours or until you have a soft ice-cream mixture.

While the mixture is setting, melt the butter in a small heavy frying pan, add the sugar and the thinly sliced carrots. Stir well, then cover the pan and cook on a low heat for about ten minutes. Uncover the pan and continue to cook over a gentle heat, until the carrots are sticky and caramelised (keep stirring and take care they don't catch). Allow the mixture to cool but not to harden.

Beat the semi-solid ice-cream by hand or in a food processor then fold in the carrots and return the mixture to the freezer. Allow the ice-cream to mellow for about 20 minutes in the fridge before serving.

● National Ice-cream Week runs from today until August 2. Rocombe Farm shop is at 123 Union Street, Castle Circus, Torquay (TQ8 3JF). Opening hours are 9.30am-5.45pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-6pm Sat, 2-6pm Sun, and evenings from 7-11pm during the summer.

Rocombe Farm ice-cream is also stocked by a number of specialist and health food shops, including Harrods and Selfridges.

Taste of Tuscany

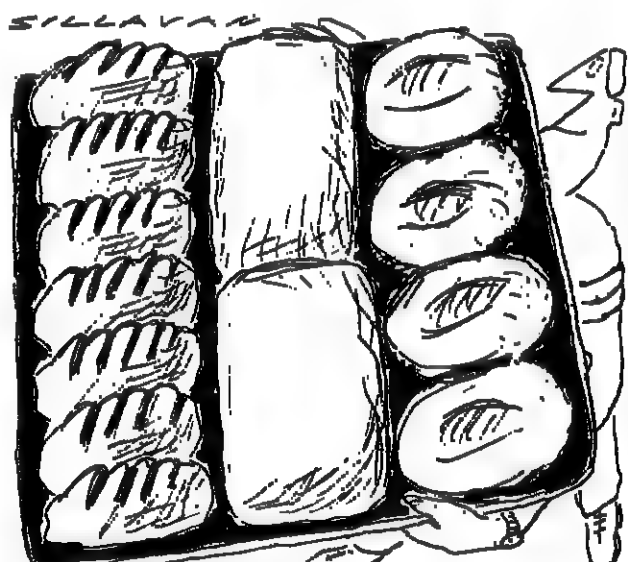
Daily bread sent from heaven

AT 8.30am the customers gathered outside the Panificio Dianda & Rugani stir slightly, interrupting their conversations to look expectantly at the closed door. African beggars edge closer to the fringes of the crowd, their hopes raised by the knowledge that this bakery is the busiest shop in Lucca and pickings will be as good as they can be.

Suddenly the blind is snapped up, the door flung open and, with a series of *buon giorno* greetings, the jostling crowd streams into the shop. Three grizzle-haired

men dressed in white take refuge on a platform raised behind the counter, which consists of several glass cases packed with a dozen or more varieties of Italian bread, two heavy-duty weighing scales and a cash register. At their backs the wall is lined with packets of dried pasta. Behind the customers, glass-fronted cupboards house rows of biscuit boxes. The day begins.

Or, rather, the commercial part of the day does. The making and baking of the bread has been going on most of the night, and in a room



behind the shop, glimpsed briefly from time to time as another great tray of focaccia (flat bread made with olive oil) is brought in through the swing door, youths in white caps and overalls scurry to and fro, filling trays and pulling freshly baked loaves from the ovens, joking and chattering.

At most times of the morning, and again from 3.30 until 7pm, the shop is packed. The door barely closes on a signora with fur coat and poodle, before it opens again to let in an elderly gentleman in a trilby, who is greeted by a "buon giorno, Professore!" as he takes his place at the back of the crowd, now three or four deep at the counter.

The staff work like demons, sawing great slabs of focaccia two feet square with a long knife. Massive loaves of *pane integrale* set the needle swinging on the weighing machine. If Professore tucks a couple of twisted rolls and a thin pipe of saltiest Tuscan bread into his briefcase before shuffling out through the crowd. The noise level soars.

The servers' grey hair belies their energy. They catch the eye of every customer before greeting him or her individually, in the meantime weighing out half a kilogram of white bread, or bundling three *ciabatta* loaves into a paper bag. Shouted orders through the swing doors quickly bring relief supplies of refilled trays, and a piece of hot, crisp focaccia as big as a table top is carried in by two men. The place is a mixture between a cocktail party and the London futures market. Everyone seems to know everyone and news is exchanged at full volume while we all jostle for a

place at the front of the counter.

I wait with bated breath while a fat maitron in black hovers indecisively over the last loaf of wholemeal bread, which I had hoped to secure. *Pane integrale* runs out by mid-morning and Lucca is too far from my house for me to make a hopeful return trip this afternoon after the second baking. A large, chewy, dense-textured loaf, it will last at least three days and is the best I have tasted in the area. The maitron decides against it and the weighing machine needle swings in my favour.

THE young cashier, with his olive skin, black hair and beard and gold-rimmed glasses, explains to me with enthusiasm that "tre mille otto cento lire" (about £1.80), but for speed he uses the abbreviated form. This short language lesson takes place while at least six people are waiting to pay, but rather than show impatience they nod in agreement and approval at his attempt to teach *la signora* (English colloquial Italian).

The cash till flashes green again, and soon I have squeezed out of the throng and am weaving through the bicycles that fill Lucca's narrow medieval streets. Behind me the door to the bakery opens again and I hear the brief burst of the hubbub it releases fading in the shadows, as I turn the corner into the sunlit Piazza San Michele.

ANNE WILLIAMS

Panificio Dianda & Rugani, Via S. Lucia 20, Lucca (0583 46285). Anne Williams is a food writer based in Lucca.

Friends and three veg

ENTERTAINING AT HOME

MAUREEN LIPMAN

I enjoy entertaining, but always get het up, buy far too much stuff, and by 7pm ask myself why the hell I'm doing this. Yet at midnight I think: "Ooh, this is nice, must do it again some time."

Ten's my maximum number for a dinner party. I can't have more than that because I've got a dinner set that someone started me off with when I got married and I've never added to it. If I asked more people I'd mean going out in search of that ruddy dinner set.

Most of the time I don't need help — I've got Jack. He cooks a mean salmon and he's very military about it. The salmon comes to the boil, simmers for three or four minutes, is left for a while, stripped of its skin then decorated with cucumber. I happily leave all that to him and concentrate on more bovine occupations like steaming the potatoes.

I have someone who comes in during the day, and sometimes she does me a pretty-looking salad or a nice dessert. For the last dinner party she made me a leek and potato soup which was supposed to be eaten cold, but I didn't know that. Now, nothing ever heats up properly in my microwave and that soup was in and out like Ronnie Biggs. We ended up eating it tepid, which I'm sure is incredibly dangerous, but I haven't heard from any dead guests yet.

That was the dinner party when my daughter's A-level books were all over the dining table, which meant we had to eat in the kitchen. It was perfect — none of that scurrying through, like a startled vole, with potatoes that aren't quite hot. I simply passed things over the counter and joined in the conversation. There were only eight of us, so it was easy.

Yes, I've got a hostess trolley. Yes, it's in the cellar — your William Morris teak-and-mahogany-engraved-with-marquetry hostess trolley hasn't yet been invented.

Jennifer, my friend from America, brought me over this brilliant *Better Homes Cook-book* which has almost revolutionised my feelings about entertaining. Now, I'm not awfully numerate and I'm recipe-blind, and things just



Maureen Lipman: "I'm not numerate and I'm recipe-blind"

swim in my head when I look at half a pound of this or that, but in this book everything's measured in cups or little measuring spoons. It really does take the sweat out of cooking and the other day, when friends came, I surprised myself by making a delicious salmon loaf from it.

And I never experiment as a rule. I'm just like my mother — I stick to meatballs and braised steak. Jack also prefers what he's used to — he's not the sort of man who thinks the world of a pine nut. So it's meat and two veg in my house, and when I give a dinner party it's meat and three veg.

I don't ask the people I should ask — I'm no good at the casting dining-table. What I usually do to pay my debts is

whisky if the men come, and sherry for the women. Drink's not a tradition in our family. I make a real effort with wine because I'm no good at it and because Jack's so totally uninterested. Before guests come, I spend an hour showing bottles into the freezer and then forgetting they're there. Sometimes they explode or they come out in blocks. As soon as somebody's glass is empty I fill it up. It's only when I go to other people's houses that I realise this is not how it's done and that I'm over-compensating again.

On New Year's Eve I usually give a party, which is always chaotic. I tend to ask everyone I know, though the people I've owed dinner to for ages always seem to assume, when I ring them, that I want something. I do a chilli, or something similar, and a hot punch with all the colds: salmon salad and stuff like that. We end up with Denis King (a former member of the vocal-instrumental group the King Brothers) at the piano and have a big sing-song. We each have a song sheet and sing "I saw the old homestead" and then do it with gestures, without the words. It sounds jolly silly, but it does mean that someone like Denis, Norden, who hates going out on New Year's Eve, will come along because he knows it will be a knees-up and the music won't send him home with a haemorrhage.

Maureen Lipman's salmon loaf
4 cup chopped onion
1 tsp dried dillweed
1 tsp margarine
1 slightly beaten egg
1 cup Matzo meal
4 cup milk
15oz can pink salmon

Cook onion, dillweed and dash of pepper in the margarine until tender, then combine egg, Matzo meal, milk and onion mixture and salmon, mix well. Put in a loaf tin, bake in 350F oven for 30-35 minutes. The recipe says to serve with a cheese sauce, but I substitute. Hellman's mayonnaise. What I've got I use.

Interview by Paddy Burt
● Maureen Lipman is married to writer and playwright Jack Rosenthal. They live in North London.



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الطعام الجيد

Barbecues with that extra bite

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, presents some favourite recipes for perfect outdoor eating — using meat, fish and cheese



THERE are several theories about the origin of the word barbecue. One is that it refers to the wooden frame, the *barbacoa*, that the Spanish conquistadors found the inhabitants of the new world using for drying, smoking and cooking meat and fish. Another is that French pirates in the Caribbean would roast, on an open fire, a whole animal de *barbe* à la queue, or de *barbe* au cul.

However, it must be some atavistic urge that turns our thoughts to barbecues. Unlike our cave-dwelling ancestors who cooked outside over an open fire in all weathers, we can do it in comfort and style, waiting for a calm, warm day or evening.

What appeals to us, I am sure, is the same appetising smell which comes from the sugars in the food browning and caramelising in the heat of the charcoal. That is the essence of the barbecue. There are all the extras, of course, the gadgets, the equipment, the folklore surrounding the best way of getting the fire to the right heat but in the end, it is the smell we all remember.

As a child, I lived in South Africa for a couple of years, and one of my most vivid memories is of a barbecue in a pine forest outside Cape Town with some neighbours. French, Belgians and Italians. A large fire was built, surrounded by a stone border, and over it was a set of a trellis barbecue. Flasks of chianti were passed around, salami was sliced "to be going on with" while the meat was cooking. This was indeed a true *braai* *vleis*, with lamb cutlets, fillet of beef, spatchcocked chickens and, above all, spicy Italian sausages. The meats were charred on the outside and juicy on the inside; rare-ish for the beef and lamb, thoroughly cooked for the chicken and sausage.

These days, I prefer a more varied barbecue diet. Fish and many kinds of vegetables are perfectly suited to the barbecue, and I like to barbecue a dinner for the two of us on a small, disposable barbecue, which we set on the roof terrace of our flat. The last time I cooked such a meal, we had grilled peppers and aubergines. The peppers I quartered and seeded; the aubergines I sliced and brushed with oil. When they were done, I peeled the peppers, cut them and the aubergines into strips, seasoned with salt, pepper, lemon juice and plenty of fruity olive oil, and served this as a starter.

Salmon fillets, grilled on one side only, followed after that a piece of skirt steak, which, for me, is the best piece of beef for barbecuing. It is of uniform thickness, about 1 1/2-2cm thick, has some marbling, and a good flavour. I also think it has an excellent texture. Others might find it too tough though. A marinade is not essential, but it is a good idea to brush meat and fish with oil while it is cooking; as this prevents it from sticking to the grill.

Apart from peppers and aubergines, many other vegetables grill well: slices of sweet potato, courgettes, field mushrooms and corn on the cob. Fruit, too, can be grilled, or wrapped in foil and baked in the charcoal. Baked apples, pears or peaches are very good, particularly if cored or stoned and filled with almond paste or dried fruit and nuts mixed with honey and butter. Thick slices of mango and pineapple can be brushed with butter and grilled over the coals, to be served with cold yoghurt or crème fraîche.

Unilateral salmon
(serves 6)
6 x 4-6oz/110-170g pieces of salmon fillet
extra virgin olive oil
juice and grated zest of two oranges
1 onion, peeled and thinly sliced
seasoning

The skin should be left on the salmon. Mix the rest of the ingredients in a shallow plate and place the fish on it, skin side up. Leave to marinate for 15-20 minutes. Just before grilling the fish, brush the skin with the marinade, arrange the fillets on a grill rack, skin side to the heat, and place over the barbecue. Grill for 5-8 minutes, depending on the thickness of the fish and how well done you like it. Serve the fish skin side up on warm serving plates. The skin should be crisp and golden and is good to eat, as long as the fish was scaled first.

Prawns and bacon skewers
(serves 8)
16 or 24 uncooked tiger prawns or other giant prawns
8 or 12 slices smoked or unsmoked streaky bacon
freshly ground pepper
butter mushrooms, bay leaves and cherry tomatoes (optional)

Shell the prawns. Discard the bacon rind and cut each rasher in half. Wrap each prawn in a piece of bacon and thread on to skewers, alternating with small vegetables.

Lightly season with pepper and then grill. A chili sauce, orange and garlic mayonnaise or fresh herb and tomato sauce can be served with the skewers.

Cubes of lamb neck fillet are inexpensive and have a good marbling of fat. As with all food cooked on skewers, if you leave space between the threaded items they will cook more readily.

Lemon marinated chicken wings
(serves 6-8)
Marinate overnight:
24 chicken wings
2tbsp soy sauce
2tbsp lemon juice
grated zest of a lemon
1-2 lemongrass stalks, thinly sliced
2tbsp dry sherry or rice wine
2tbsp clear honey
pinch of 5-spice powder
2 star anise pods
3-4 cloves of garlic, peeled and crushed
1tbsp Sichuan peppercorns or crushed black pepper
1tbsp toasted sesame oil

Put the chicken wings in a large bowl. Mix the rest of the ingredients and pour over the meat, turning to coat thoroughly. Cover, refrigerate and leave overnight.

When ready to grill the meat, drain the pieces, letting the marinade drip back. Grill the chicken wings, brushing with the marinade from time to time. Remove and pile on a platter. Boil marinade for 3-4 minutes; serve with the chicken.

New potatoes and giant garlic baked in parcels
(serves 6)
2-3 dozen new potatoes
6-12 cloves giant garlic
extra virgin olive oil
freshly ground black pepper
coarse sea salt

Scrub or wash (do not peel) the potatoes. Peel the garlic. Cut six large circles of foil and brush with olive oil. Divide the potatoes and garlic among the six sheets, and sprinkle with salt and pepper and a little more olive oil. Draw edges together, double fold, and seal parcels like cornish pasties, folding the two points up so that the juices do not leak out. Bake for about 40 minutes.

Grilled goats' cheese on country bread
(serves 3)
8 pieces of country bread
1 large garlic clove, peeled
extra virgin olive oil
8 slices of goats' cheese or whole Crostin de Chavignol or similar



Toast one side of the bread only. Rub the toasted side quickly with garlic, brush with olive oil, and put cheese on each piece of bread. Put back on the grill rack, and toast the other side of the bread. Alternatively, take firm, round bread rolls, halve, and hollow out enough crumb to take the goats' cheese. Brush the rolls with oil, and rub with garlic. Toast each side until browned and the cheese melting.

Grilled fruit croissants or brioches
(serves 3)
8 croissants or brioches
2tbsp clear honey
3oz/85g unsalted butter
icing sugar

Choose fruit from: sliced bananas and apple dipped in lemon juice; mixed raspberries and blueberries; stoned cherries and sliced strawberries; sliced peaches or nectarines and strawberries.

Split the croissants, or cut a cap off the brioches, and remove some of the crumb. Boil the honey and butter until they form a syrup and then brush inside the pastry and out. Fill with one of the fruit combinations shown in the recipe. Close and secure the pastry with cocktail sticks, and dust with icing sugar. Grill for a few minutes either side. Serve with a bowl of cool yoghurt or crème fraîche.

GREAT CLASSICS

PATE A CHOUX

THIS recipe for choux pastry can play a part in a variety of dishes, from *amuse gueules* to *petits fours*, from *patisserie* to *pièces montées*. Chocolate éclairs, profiteroles, gâteau St Honoré, religieuses, Paris-Brest, and *croque-monsieur*, as well as savoury choux buns and *gougères*, all need a choux paste to begin with.

Properly, this is a paste, not a pastry. It can be made sweet or plain. Grated cheese can be folded in to make a savoury, such as a *gougère*. Spoonful of sweet choux paste can be deep-fried and dusted with icing sugar and served with a fruit sauce. Small choux buns can be split open and filled with creams, purées or mousses, or served as a savoury hors-d'œuvre.

Whipped cream flavoured with fruit liqueurs, grated chocolate, espresso, honey and whisky, crushed raspberries, apple purée and Calvados will fill large or small choux buns or cakes topped with icing sugar, glazed water icing, caramel, melted chocolate or toasted almonds.

Choux paste
(makes 1 large choux ring, 8 individual choux buns or 24 small ones)
1/2pt/140ml water
2oz/50g butter
pinch of salt
2 1/2oz/75g flour
2 free-range eggs, lightly beaten

In a saucepan bring the water, butter and salt to the boil, and tip in all the flour at once, stirring vigorously with a wooden spoon until the mixture dries to the point where it leaves the sides of the pan. Remove from heat and beat in the eggs, a little at a time, making sure each addition is thoroughly incorporated. Keep stirring until you have a smooth paste. If you wish to keep the mixture for use later, cover the surface with damp grease-proof paper to stop a crust forming. Otherwise, proceed with the cooking immediately.

The oven should be heated to 180°C/350°F, gas mark 4. Spoon or pipe the paste in small heaps, larger heaps or sausage shapes, depending on what you wish to make, on to the lightly greased baking sheet with space between, as they expand on baking. Bake for about 10-15 minutes for small buns, 15-30 minutes for a *gougère* or Paris-Brest. Turn off heat and allow to cool with the oven door open. Remove from oven, split and fill with your chosen filling.

F.B.

Summer taste is in the pink

Robin Young
urges a rosé
rethink

WE are deeply colour prejudiced. In a market survey only 7 per cent of women and no men at all named pink wine as their favourite. In Britain pink is not pukka.

Rosé wines should be regarded as essential summer drinking because they are at once light, fruity and flavourful. Instead, they are ignorantly looked down on as wine for wimps.

Warm weather in France instantly brings a bright blush of rosé to wine glasses in the finest and most serious restaurants, as well as on the bistro and brasserie terraces. Italians and Spaniards face their long, hot summers refreshed with copious quantities of pink wines, but in Britain pink is way out of fashion.

Robin Yapp, of Yapp Brothers of Mere, the importers of the Bunan brothers' Bandol wines, tells me that on the Côte d'Azur the Bunans sell four times as much of their crisp Cinsault, Grenache and Mourvèdre rosé as they do of their dark and brooding red. In Britain the proportions are reversed, and Yapp Brothers sell four times as much red as rosé.

Blame it on the climate, or on Mateus Rosé, the home lamp-makers' favourite bottle, or possibly on more recent snobbish contempt for the American invention "Blush". Whichever explanation you prefer, it remains our loss because good dry rosés, and even some of the sweeter ones, are delicious and characterful wines of tremendous adaptability and charm.

While we continue to insist on white wines for our aperitifs and red for the barbecues, we unjustly ignore or pour scorn upon pinks which could readily handle both.

Among the advantages of rosé wines I place high their ability to accompany admirably all manner of meals, from a lunchtime plate of sandwiches to a grand dinner with fresh salmon, chicken, pork, veal or roast lamb as the centrepiece. I can even com-



Fresh and fruity: Rosé wines, unjustly despised in Britain, go with almost everything

mend rosé with grilled steak.

Pink wines are among the most useful for serving out of doors. Indeed, they go so well with picnics that in a blind tasting of picnic wines organised by *Taste*, the gourmet's magazine, Mateus Rosé was picked as the panel's favourite flavour.

Similarly, it took a report in *Wine* magazine to draw attention to the fact that pink wines make some of the best matches not only to nut cutlets but to the modern repertoire of vegetarian recipe dishes based on vegetables, cheeses, eggs, pastas, pulses and fish.

The explanation seems to be that good pink wines combine freshness and fruit with a little more tannin, weight and savour than most whites. Add to

that the fact that pink wines can vary from palest pink, which the French call *œil de perdrix* (partridge eye), to the tawny orange-pink *pelure d'oignon* (onion skin). Beware, though, of the dark, mauve-tinged shades which some California rosés show, an unnatural wine colour which is best avoided, and equally shun dark orange-amber, which shows that the wine has been kept too long.

All pink wines should be drunk well chilled, and almost all should be drunk young, so that their refreshing, youthful fruitiness is still in its prime. Few rosés improve with age, the most notable exception being fine vintage rosé champagnes, which might take a decade to reach their peak.

High summer is plainly the high season for pink wines, but if you buy now do not think that you have to see them off before the end of the school holidays. Rosé wines are just as welcome in an Indian summer, when white wines can seem too skinny and acidic, yet most rosés still too full-bodied to enjoy to the full.

The rosés are wines to reawaken your interest in neglected charms, and to offer to people who claim that they do not like wine. After all, many of us were weaned from lemonade or beer by Mateus Rosé or pink Lambrusco. It is just that people forget to tell us that not all rosés are semi-sweet beginners' stuff.

Best buys

- Domaine de Latande Merlot Rosé 1991, Vin de Pays de l'Aude, Wairrose, £2.95. Soft, fruity. Drink on its own or with light meals.
- Domaine de Patis Rosé 1991, Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne, Majestic Wine Wairhouses, £3.29. Pale rose-pink, with scent of fresh currants. Excellent with pork sausages, grilled or smoked trout, or with quiche.
- Forast Rosé Syrah 1991, Vin de Pays d'Oc, Victoria Wine Company, £3.49. Flavoursome, good for barbecues. Bottle will please lamp-makers.
- Mateus Rosé 1992 McLaren Vale Grenache, Oddbins, £4.99.
- Raspberry flavours characterise this Geoff Merrill wine from Australia. Excellent with poultry dishes, hot or cold, and steak.
- Domaine de St Martin de la Garrigue Cuvée Tradition 1991, Vin de Pays des Coteaux de Beaulieu, Adams of Southwold, Suffolk, £4.15. Luscious hue, fruity taste. Good with spicy Chinese food, or lamb.
- Mas de la Rouvière 1990, Bandol Rosé, Yapp Brothers, Mere, Wiltshire, £7.15. Crisp, spicy and admirably suited to Mediterranean-style cuisine.

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03 Aug	Corfu	14	Studio	S/C	£269	06 Aug	Athens	7	Apt	S/C	£229
04 Aug	Crete	7	Hotel	B&B	£279	06 Aug	Portugal	14	Studio	S/C	£309
04 Aug	Majorca	14	Hotel	B&B	£319	08 Aug	Majorca	14	Studio	S/C	£289
05 Aug	Lefkas	7	Apt	S/C	£279	09 Aug	Portugal	7	Studio	S/C	£239
06 Aug	Portugal	14	Studio	S/C	£309	10 Aug	Corfu	7	Apt	S/C	£229
08 Aug	Malaga	7	Studio	S/C	£229	11 Aug	Zante	14	Apt	S/C	£329
08 Aug	Majorca	14	Hotel	B&B	£319	11 Aug	Crete	14	Studio	S/C	£329
09 Aug	Sch. of France	14	Camping	S/C(4)	£164	13 Aug	Athens	7	Apt	S/C	£249
11 Aug	Zante	7	Apt	S/C	£259	13 Aug	Portugal	7	Studio	S/C	£229
12 Aug	Rhodes	7	Studio	S/C	£279	14 Aug	Tenerife	7	Studio	S/C	£239
14 Aug	Minorca	14	Studio	S/C	£299	14 Aug	Minorca	14	Studio	S/C	£279
16 Aug	Gerona	7/14	Flight Only	£74	17 Aug	Corfu	14	Studio	S/C	£279	
16 Aug	Costa Brava	7	Camping	S/C	£174	19 Aug	Rhodes	14	Studio	S/C	£274
17 Aug	Skiathos	7	Studio	S/C	£279	26 Aug	Rhodes	14	Studio	S/C	£309
18 Aug	Rhodes	14	Studio	S/C	£264						
25 Aug	Zante	14	Apt	S/C	£269						
26 Aug	Lefkas	7	Studio	S/C	£279						
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13 Aug	Zante	7	Studio	S/C	£269		
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Adventure knows no handicap

Physically demanding sports can be fun for disabled children. Jane Bidder reports

At the age of 12, Cheryl Hall can sail a 24ft boat and paddle a canoe with ease. She is an adept rock climber and a past master of the assault course. All this despite having cerebral palsy and having to spend her life in a wheelchair.

Such activities are not the most obvious for handicapped children, but they are just four of many outdoor pursuits offered during week-long or weekend holidays at the Churchtown Farm Outdoor Environmental and Education Centre in Bodmin, Cornwall.

The centre, run by the Spastics Society, and others like it (such as the Ranch Adventure Centre near Harlech, north Wales), are reminders that there are places to take both physically and mentally handicapped children where staff don't blanch at the sight of a wheelchair.

"Most activities can be adapted to suit all skills," says Martyn Overton, principal of Churchtown Farm, which charges £60 to £100 for a weekend. "Our boat has a hoist system which lifts wheelchairs and is adapted for steering. The canoes have extra padding so that wheelchairs are not always necessary. And there is always one able-bodied person on board."

For rock climbing, Churchtown Farm uses harnesses and one-to-one staff attention (many handicapped and special-needs children can use other limbs even if they cannot move their legs). Even the abseiling equipment is designed to accommodate wheelchairs.

The assault course, an American idea, incorporates a zipwire harness which takes participants from one gentle height to another. "We've never had any serious accidents," says Mr Overton, whose centre is fully insured. "And it's a wonderful confidence-booster for everyone."

Not all weekends are so physical. Churchtown Farm has just started its Aquatic club (for 11 to 17-year-olds), which meets every month to socialise and raise funds.

"They started by filming and interviewing each other," says Rebecca Butler, Cheryl's mother. "It was brave — and funny — considering the person who was holding the camera had cerebral palsy so she

film shook violently, and, because most of the children have speech defects, it was virtually impossible to understand the interviews. But it made them take charge and do something completely different."

If activity weekends are not your child's style, how about an afternoon on a wheelchair roundabout to which chairs are safely clamped? Or a 9ft slide with a ramp and a large bed on wheels? These are on offer — free — at the Thames Valley Adventure Playground charity in Taplow, near Maidenhead, Berkshire. There are nearly two acres of playground, with equipment designed for special-needs children and a purpose-built building (on one level) housing refreshment and cloakrooms. The playground (open Tuesday to Saturdays) employs four full-time staff.

There are similar playgrounds in London, Stafford, Guildford, Liverpool, Scotland and Northern Ireland (for more details, contact the Handicapped Adventure Playground Association, details below).

Eight-year-old Laura Poole lives for her Sunday morning rides in Kent with the local branch of the Riding for the Disabled. Laura, who is physically and mentally handicapped, started last September and is already pony mad.

"We first thought of the idea when a friend with a pony offered her a ride," says her mother, Nicola. "To our surprise, she took to it without hesitation. Although she finds it hard to balance on the ground, she has perfect balance on horseback."

One of the biggest pluses for Laura has been to increase her confidence. "It's something that she can do and which her younger sister and brother can't," Mrs Poole says. "That means a lot, particularly for her six-year-old sister who is already overtaking her with reading skills."

"Laura can trot and even go over small jumps. Last weekend she came back flushed with pleasure because they'd been down to the beach. And she's also making new friends through the stables."

Laura is one of 26,000 riders, aged from four years upwards, who participate in the Riding for the Disabled scheme, which keeps costs



Splashing about: a special-needs child plays happily at the Thames Valley Adventure Playground, near Maidenhead, Berkshire

to a minimum (from nothing to £3 per ride) by relying on fully insured stables and private owners to provide tuition and horses.

"Riding is particularly suited to the disabled because it brings them to the same eye-level as everyone else," a spokesman for the charity says. "Not only are there any problems with kerbs or access. The sport can exercise muscles which might not otherwise be used, and it provides a competitive social element." All riders have to provide a doctor's letter, though, and epileptics are gently discouraged.

Riding for the Disabled also offers carriage driving (children can start from as young as six). "This is particularly suitable for heavy people or those who would rather not be on a horse."

For more socially orientated weekend activities, Mencap has 40 junior Gateway clubs (for children from the age of seven upwards) which offer dance, art, music, adapted games, drama and crafts.

Unaccompanied children are welcome, although parents can go too. Ten-year-old Karen Havard and her eight-year-old brother, Paul, who both have Down's Syndrome, go to the North Harrow junior Gateway club every Saturday afternoon. "They particularly love drawing, painting and bike rides in the park," says their adoptive mother, Julie Havard.

Ms Havard takes her children swimming at a local school pool at Saturday lunchtime. Ideally, "special-needs" children should go to the same places as their healthier friends, but tricky access and narrow lanes can make this impossible.

Radar (the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation) has identified this problem in its handbook "Holidays in the British Isles 1992" (£4.50), which also covers suggested days out. Examples include the American Adventure

lakes Children's Berkshire (£1.95 from the county's libraries), which highlights facilities for those with special needs.

Churchtown Farm Environmental and Education Centre, Lanivet, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5BT (0208 872148).

Thames Valley Adventure Playground, Bath Road, Taplow, Berkshire (0628 28599).

The Handicapped Adventure Playground Association, Fulham Palace, Bishops Avenue, London SW6 6EA (helpline: 071-731 1435).

Riding for the Disabled, Avenue R, NAC, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 3LY (0203 696510).

Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 6AP.

Mencap, 123 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0RT (071-454 0454).

The Holiday Care Society, 2 Old Bank Chambers, Station Road, Harlow, Essex RH6 9HW (0203 774535).

Break, 20 Holes Hill Road, Sharnham, Norfolk NR26 8NL (0263 823170).

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Events

LONDON

□ In-Bro pop video exhibition: For older children, the story of pop video from the first film "Tallie" with Al Jolson to Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody". Museum of the Moving Image, South Bank, London SE1. From today. £5, child £4. Family ticket (two adults and up to four children) £16. Further information on 071-401 2636.

□ Bethnal Green workshops: Open to all children over the age of three, a series of summer workshops, Mondays and Wednesdays, board games, Tuesdays, a museum trail; Thursdays, looking at children's books in the exhibition "Trash or Treasure"; Saturdays, art workshops. Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2, July 27-Aug 20. Further information on 081-981 1711.

NATIONWIDE

□ Barton at play: For junior school age groups — Wednesday, 10am-12.30pm, pond dipping, bring wellingtons. For all age groups — Friday, 10am-noon, nest-making workshop. Under-11s should be accompanied by an adult. Barton Clay Pits, The Old Bathhouse, Barton-upon-Humber, South Humberside. July 29-31. Further information on 0652 33283.

□ Castle Eden mystery: Monday, guided trail to find the park secrets; Wednesday, a "Knock-out" for all the family; Friday, make and fly a kite. Meet at Station House visitors' centre, Castle Eden, Walkway Country Park, near Thorpe Thewles, Cleveland. July 27, 29, 31, 2pm. Further information on 0740 3001.

□ Chatham challenges: British industrial working-class tales taking visitors back to the age of real horse power in an 18th/19th century setting. The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent. Tomorrow, 10am-6pm. £2.50, child 5-15 £1.50, under-fives free. Further details on 0634 812551.

□ Hemsley heads: The largest historical reconstruction in this year's English Heritage commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the outbreak of the Civil War, with more than 1,000 members of the English Civil War Society in a battle between Parliamentarians and Royalists. The action begins today at 11am, as brigades march through the town; battles from 3pm both days. Hemsley Castle, Duncombe Park, Helmsley, N. Yorks. Today, tomorrow, £5, child £2.50.

□ St Albans goes wild: At the museum, "Wildlife in the garden" workshops, 10am-12.30pm, plus Norah's Ark, a play for seven to 12-year-olds, 2pm. Museum of St Albans, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire. Today until July 29. Booking 0727 819340.

JUDY FROSHAUG

071-481 1920

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

071-782 7828

LADIES	LADIES	LADIES	SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS	SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS	GENTLEMEN	GENTLEMEN
<p>ADVENTURE 12, Cheryl Hall can sail a 24ft boat and paddle a canoe with ease. She is an adept rock climber and a past master of the assault course. All this despite having cerebral palsy and having to spend her life in a wheelchair.</p> <p>AGAINST all odds, this very attractive, petite, professional female, 39, without an internet, attractive, n/a male to share life and love. If you are 30-40 and want a long-term relationship, please contact me. Reply to Box No 9513.</p> <p>AMERICAN 30, seeks Englishman n/a/65 to marry. Want to move to US. Box No 9508.</p> <p>ARE you warm, fun, and available? I'm a 30-year-old woman with whom to share the long summer months. Preferably rich must have a sense of humour. Please reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>ARE you educated, tall, witty, and have a great sense of humour? I'm a 30-year-old woman with whom to share the long summer months. Preferably rich must have a sense of humour. Please reply to Box No 9517.</p> <p>ATTRACTIVE n/a/37, divorced with two children, seeks a man for long-term relationship. Box No 9508.</p> <p>A very tall attractive & intelligent woman, 30, seeks a man for long-term relationship. Box No 9508.</p> <p>Very tall attractive & intelligent woman, 30, seeks a man for long-term relationship. Box No 9508.</p>	<p>BOX 9182 Have a wicked sense of humour and similar interests but am a coward. Why don't you write first? Box No 9501.</p> <p>BREXIT 40, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9512.</p> <p>CHARMING 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>CHARMING 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>CHARMING 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p>	<p>I AM intelligent well travelled and a bit of a rebel. I am a 30-year-old woman with whom to share the long summer months. Preferably rich must have a sense of humour. Please reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>LADY 40, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>LADY 40, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>LADY 40, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p>	<p>AMERICANS SEEK friendship, romance and marriage with British lady & gentlemen, all 30-40, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>AN ELEGANT evening dress, 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>A SUEDE 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>CELEBRATE 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p>	<p>THAT SHAI Marriage introduction, 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>THIS PICTURE Dating idea, 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>TO GET someone special in your life, 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>TWO is the superior service for attractive people with busy lives, 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p>	<p>AQUARIAN male (40) seeks, 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>ARE you tall, slim, beautiful, 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>ATTRACTIVE 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>CHARMING 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>DASHING 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p>	<p>GENERAL and creative male, 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>TACTILE 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>THE ULTIMATE 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p> <p>WELL 30, n/a/37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Reply to Box No 9509.</p>

PASSPORT TO FRANCE

Four-page pull-out drivers' guide: ■ Car check-list ■ Britain's love affair with Brittany ■ Motor-cycling to the south

Keep right, to the end of the road

Warning triangle?
Spare bulbs?
Robin Young
presents a check-list
for keen but
forgetful drivers
bound for France
this summer

As we have seen in recent weeks, there are some contingencies that no motorist heading for France could possibly foresee. Whilst roadblocks apart, though, a little forethought can avoid a lot of problems later.

My wife will laugh that I should be writing this piece. In our family she anticipates all the problems, and I blithely neglect them. The result is that we tend to set off for our summer holidays dangerously under-insured but with a snow shovel and blankets in the boot.

This time I have been obliged to think ahead — and one of the first things I have done is to top up with antifreeze. It sounds daft, but since antifreeze heightens the boiling point of the coolant, it is useful in summer as well as winter.

Other mechanical faults may develop, so this year I will try to remember to pack a red warning triangle, to be placed on the road to give approaching traffic adequate warning of a breakdown. It is not compulsory in France if your car is fitted with warning lights, but it is still a good idea, for your own vehicle's safety, to pack one and keep it readily accessible.

It is no longer necessary to fit headlamps with yellow bulbs or filters, but it is still compulsory to have adaptors to change the direction of your dip. All they are is little strips of PVC, and you can get them from AA shops. Spot-checks, even in daylight, can lead to on-the-spot fines for law-breakers.

In France you are required to carry a kit of spare bulbs, and can be subject to a spot fine if you cannot replace any headlamp, flasher or stop or tail light that has blown. Use a GB sticker, and if you don't have a left-hand wing mirror, it's worth getting one.

Keep your documents — licence and vehicle registration — handy; you'll need them if you break down or if you are pulled over. Insurance is a matter for your own judgement. Many insurance policies now issue green cards, which are the internationally accepted certificate of insurance, without additional premium — but check precisely what cover you are getting. The green card does not provide any more cover than you would have in Britain, but without it the cover your UK insurance gives in France is minimal.

If you decide to prepare for the worst and take out a recovery service policy, shop around and do not automatically accept what the AA or RAC offer. Britannia Rescue or National Breakdown can be cheaper, and the cover provided by Europ Assistance or Mondial Assistance more practical and comprehensive.

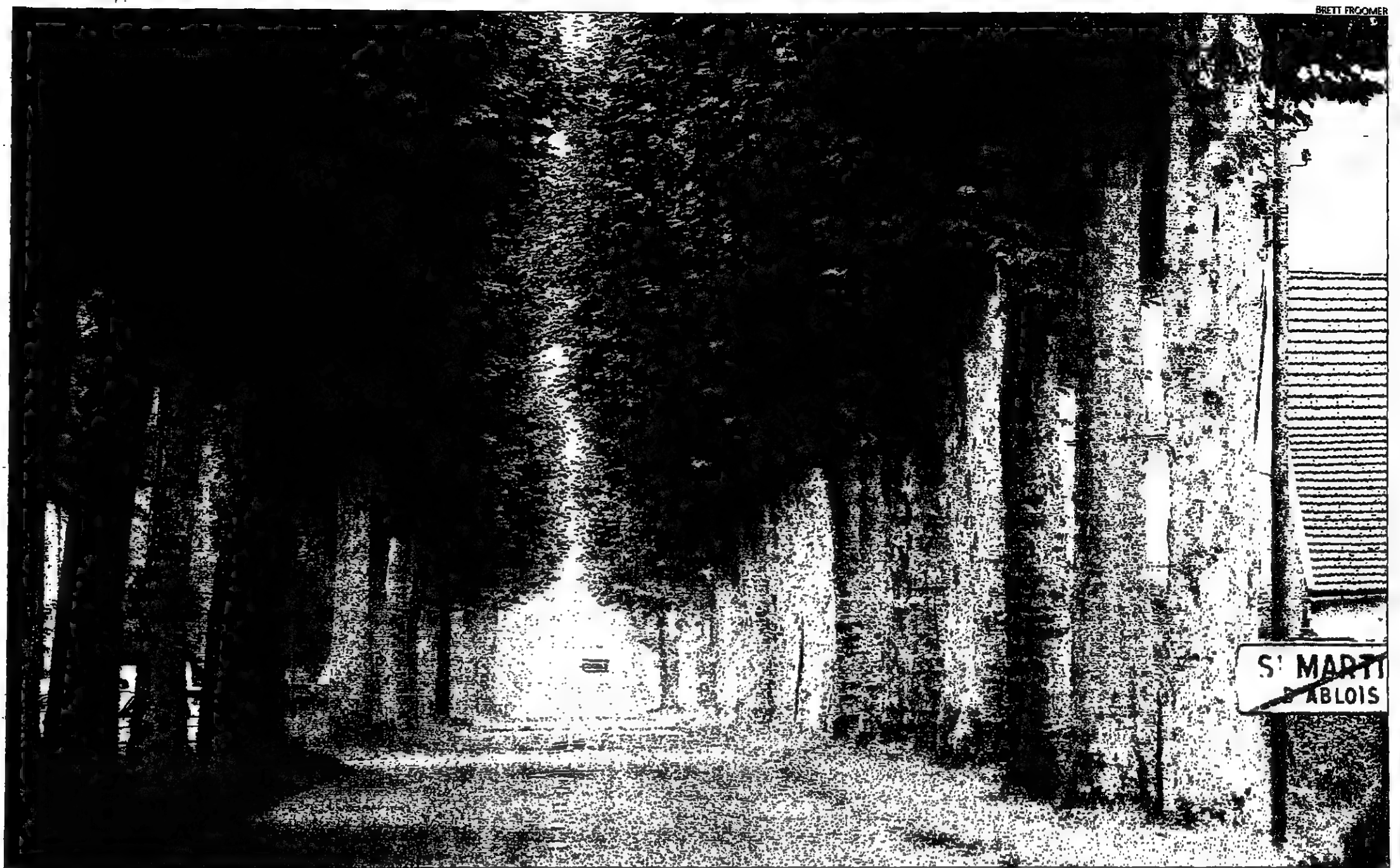
All these companies, as well as the ferries, your high-street travel agency and your insurance broker, can provide competitive travel insurance, covering medical costs, losses, and personal accident and liability claims.

You can do some personal insurance for your family's health and welfare, too. A first-aid kit is not compulsory for motorists in France, but it is recommended. Add to it insect repellent, anti-histamine cream for insect bites and possible allergies, factor 15 suntan lotion, and anti-diarrhoea preparations. It is sensible also to provide yourself with form E111, obtainable from main post offices. This is the EC form which entitles you to medical care on the same basis as the citizens of the member state you are visiting. Make sure you have one stamped and signed before you leave the UK. In France you have to pay the bill yourself, and reclaim a portion afterwards.

If your Michelin road atlas to France is not the latest edition, replace it. You never know when you may have to navigate your way round roadblocks, and outdated maps can mean missing some advantageous new routes.

The most useful new road (when not blocked by *camionneurs*) is the newly completed A26 Calais-Dijon motorway, which links the Channel port to the A6 Autoroute du Soleil avoiding Paris. The 92km section between Châlons-sur-Marne and Troyes opened at the end of last month, giving direct access to the French Alps, Champagne and Burgundy and bypassing the traffic congestion around the capital. That should be especially useful this August (from the 3rd to the 27th) when the Boulevard Périphérique around Paris will be subject to major roadworks.

Another alternative to the périphérique thrombosis is a little-known and rather inadequately signposted route called La Francilienne. Eventually it is



An archetypal French road near Epemay: the days when tractors emerged blithely without warning from the right are fading, but your car's cooling system is still the most likely cause of trouble

intended to be a new orbital road round Paris, France's equivalent to the M25, running 118 miles around the city at a radius of between 12 and 18 miles from the centre. Only 80 miles is yet ready for use, and more than 30 miles have still not progressed beyond outline planning, so you need an up-to-date map and detailed directions if you intend to use the sections which are there.

The segment to the east of Paris turns off the A1 just south of Charles-de-Gaulle airport and passes EuroDisney to reach Evry near the A6 intersection. It is a more comfortable road than the Périphérique, and faster. The limit on most of the Francilienne is 68mph (110 kmh) compared with the Périphérique's universal 50mph (80kmh).

Speed limits are taken seriously in France, which was one reason why the French trucks have been so agitated about the points system

for licence endorsements which touched off their blockades. Radar traps are used increasingly and the spot fine of FF1,100 or so which police can demand in cash is regarded as only a deposit. Depending on the degree of your transgression, a demand for more can follow later after the balance owing has been decided by a court.

The legal limits in fine weather where no special speed restrictions are displayed are 130kmh (81mph) on toll motorways, 110kmh (69mph) on dual carriageways and non-toll motorways, and 90kmh (56mph) on other roads outside built-up areas. All those limits are reduced in rain or restricted visibility: the limit on toll motorways becomes 110kmh, on dual carriageways 100kmh (62mph), and on other roads 80kmh (50 mph).

There is also a minimum speed limit of 80kmh in dry weather on autoroutes. Dawdlers can be fined. In all built-up areas, even if no

speed restriction is displayed, the limit within the town or village nameplates is automatically reduced to 50kmh (just over 30mph).

The priority on the right rule still applies, though less generally than was once the case. At road junctions in built-up areas, particularly, remember that drivers on the right have priority if there is no stop or give way sign.

The French have now discovered the roundabout, and changed the rules so that traffic on the roundabout now has priority over new arrivals. They still feel it necessary to warn approaching drivers: "Vous n'avez pas la priorité", but it is not safe to assume that all French drivers have got the message.

Familiarise yourself with the three different signs which assure you that the road you are travelling has "passage protégé" (right of way), and rehearse French road signs thoroughly. I am not sure how useful it is to know that "Chute de Pierres" means beware of tumbling rocks, but am shocked at how few British drivers realise that "Ralentir" means to slow down.

For first-timers I should mention that driving on the right is not particularly difficult. The greatest danger comes when you are feeling most relaxed and confident. Leaving a lay-by or filling station on to an empty road, it is perilously easy to fall back into the habit of a lifetime, and meet the next car coming round a bend head-on. It is easy to get the hang of the French system of directional signposting once you have worked out that a sign pointing to the right or left can mean that you go straight on.

The French autoroutes are far better supplied with pull-ups than our motorways: the simplest are being provided with picnic tables and lavatories. The service areas vary in standard, but I have found that both Court Paille and l'Arche self-service restaurants are more satisfactory than any British motorway catering.

Since the autoroutes are under different private ownerships, toll rates vary, but as an indication driving from Calais to Marseille costs FF284 (nearly £30), more if you are towing a caravan or trailer. Autoroute tolls can, though, be paid by credit card.

Parking control systems vary from place to place though, regrettably, discs have been almost universally driven out by meters or ticket machines (watch for boys marked *payant*, meaning you have to pay). Meters often do not have to be fed over lunch-time. In many towns parking is allowed only on one side of the street for the first half of the month, and on the other side for the second. Watch the date and do not double park.

● **Up-to-the-minute information** on French roads can be obtained by telephoning the information centre on 010 33 1 48 99 33 33. Specifically for motorway information dial 010 33 1 47 05 90 01. General information on French motorways, tolls, and motoring in France can be obtained by writing to the French Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL, enclosing 80p in stamps.

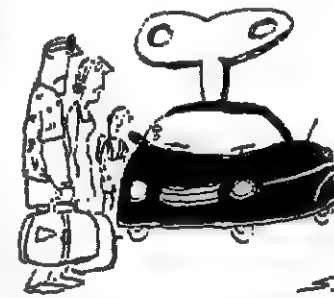
● **Car rentals:** Companies such as Avis, Budget, Godfrey Davis, Europcar and Hertz have offices in almost every town. It is worth arranging your car rental before leaving Britain. The French railways, SNCF, offer car hire at more than 2,000 stations throughout the country.

● **Accidents:** In case of accidents, inform the Bureau Central Français des Sociétés d'Assurances contre les Accidents Automobiles, 118 rue de Tocqueville, 75350 Paris (010 33 47 66 52 64).

Emergency telephone numbers are: police and ambulance 17, fire brigade 18.

A *constat d'amiabilité* (accident statement form) must be completed in all cases and (if appropriate) signed by both parties. In the event of a dispute, go to a local

IN BRIEF...



bailli who will prepare a report (*constat d'huissier*).

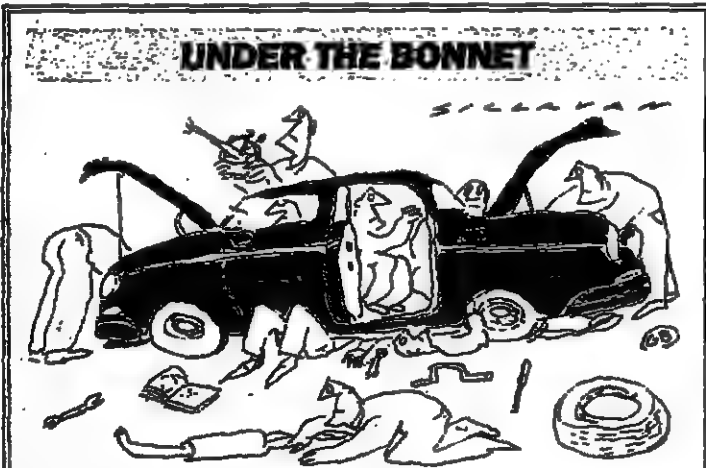
● **Help at hand:** Useful numbers include: Automobile Club de France, 6-8 Place de la Concorde, 75008 Paris: 010 33 1 42 65 34 70; Automobile Club National, 9

rue Anatole de la Forge, 75017 Paris: 010 33 1 42 27 52 00; French weather forecast: 0836 401 107; Information on laws, paperwork and driving: 0836 401 869; European Fuel prices and availability: 0836 401 883; RAC Calais Control Centre: Freephone 0529 0112.

● **Rules of the road:** Minimum legal driving age: 18. Seatbelts: obligatory for all passengers. Children: under-12s may not travel in front seat. Alcohol: the maximum permitted level in the bloodstream is 0.08 per cent.

● **Petrol:** Cheapest outside supermarkets. Major credit cards are accepted. Petrol is sold in litres: there are just over 4½ litres to the gallon.

SUSAN BELL



THE ANNUAL holiday is likely to be the car's most strenuous fortnight of the year. Taking a poorly maintained, overloaded car with balding tyres on to the ferry is an invitation to holiday dramas.

If your car is nearly due for service, get it done early enough for any glitches to show up before you leave, and emphasise to your garage that you are going abroad and will return in vengeful mood if there are any surprises.

If the service is far from due, ask a mechanic to examine the most likely trouble points, or check them yourself. Start with fluid levels: dipstick, radiator header tank, brake reservoir and screenwasher bottles. If any needs more than topping up, the cause should be investigated before departure. If your battery is not of the maintenance-free type, check the acid level in each cell and top up with distilled or de-ionised water.

Look under the bonnet for leaks, check the shock absorbers and, while you are under the car, examine the inside walls of tyres for bulges. Check the outer walls, too, of course, for cuts, cracks and bumps that denote damage, and inspect the treads for nails or flints which could pose a future threat.

The European minimum tread depth is 1.6mm, but it is

not safe to set out on a long and arduous trip with less than 2mm across all tyres, including the spare.

Have all the tyres inflated to the maximum speed/heavy load pressures recommended by the car manufacturers. The ride will be firmer, the handling safer, and the tyres less likely to overheat at speed.

The biggest single cause of Continental holiday breakdowns is overheating and cooling system failures. Make sure that clips are not cutting into hoses, and that the latter are firm. Replace any that look or feel bloated or soggy.

Your fan belt probably does not turn the fan any more, but it does drive the water pump and alternator, so it should be checked both for tension and condition. When pressed firmly with a thumb, it should deflect about half-an-inch on its longest run between the wheels, and it should not be frayed or cracked.

An extra fan belt is one of the spares that should always be in your car. Others are a tow rope, a set of jump leads, a roll of insulating tape, some strong wire, pliers, adjustable spanner, screwdrivers, a fire extinguisher and (since France is not one of those countries where it is banned) a can of fuel if you are planning to drive in remote areas or through the night.

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DEPT 7 CTV/MSY



parts and heroes: the St-Malo coast, part of the wolf's head that snarls into the Atlantic

held because the church possesses the first joint of the first finger of John the Baptist. In Quimper cathedral I had seen the skull of another St John — Sangu Du, they call him — in whose memory a fresh loaf of bread is still always on offer to the poor. So I conceived a desire to see the baptist's first joint, too.

I took a rambling drive to St-Jean one summer afternoon, through country lanes where the farmers had shaved the roadside, banks for hay. There were foxgloves, meadowsweet and buttercups still to be seen. Near St-Jean the fields were full of artichokes, with rows of conifers and high bracken-covered heath as windbreaks.

The Angelus was ringing as I parked, by the church. Everything was closed, but a group of women were enjoying a *bavardage* by the steps. Could I see the finger of John the Baptist? "Non, monsieur." They shook their heads. It is too



Order for crêpes and sunshine: lunch outdoors at Dinan

precious. It is in a bank at Morlaix.

They are careful people, the Bretons, and sometimes behind the times. They were still building flamboyant Gothic cathedrals when everyone else had stopped. Rennes may be the pop music capital of France, but at Roscoff, as you enjoy your last

galette, the motor cycle heavies still thrill to "Hey Joe", performed at a harbour café by a couple with a drum machine.

They are behind the times in Brittany, but for them the dance goes on, for real. That, I think, is why we all go back.

● Next week: Côte d'Azur



A museum near Carnac: Brittany has 750 miles of shoreline

Fêtes de la mer (nautical festivals) include: July 24-26, Lorient; July 25, St-Malo (son et lumière); July 26, Locquémeau; July 24-26, Port-Louis — Lorient; August 7-9, Pleumeur-Bodou; August 8-14, St-Malo (son et lumière); August 15, La Trinité-sur-Mer — Le Bono; August 16, Concarneau; August 22-23, Cancale.

Festivals: Interceltic Festival at Lorient, August is the biggest in Brittany. Thousands of Celtic artists. All-in ticket, FF500. (010 33 97 21 24 29 or 010 33 97 21 20 51).

Other festivals include: Quimper, July 21-26, folk; Concarneau, July 29-August 3, folk; St-Malo, August 1-2, jazz; Lamballe, August 1-2, folk; Quimper, August 4-21, music; Sarzeau, first fortnight in August, art and music; Belle-Ile-en-Mer, August 11-14, island festival; Dinard, beginning of October, film.

● More information available from the French Tourist Office (071-491 7622); or from the Brittany Chamber of Tourism (071-490 5579).

WHAT TO READ

The Michelin green tourist guide to Brittany helps to set priorities for a brief visit. The red guide offers gastronomic good sense. The *Insight Guide to Brittany* (APA, £11.95) contains essays, photographs, gazetteer and a wealth of practical information in the back section. *Brittany*, by Keith Spence, (George Philip, £17.99) has excellent photographs by Joe Cornish and an informative text.

Brittany, the Institute Géographique National touring guide, (Robertson McCarta, £9.95) contains a pithy introduction, walks, detailed maps and practical information. *Le Guide du Routard*, Brittany edition, (Hachette, FF69) is packed with idiosyncratic information. Indispensable for French speakers. *The Brittany and Normandy Rough Guide* (Penguin, £7.99), is less comprehensive, but in English. *The Franklin's Tale* by Chaucer (CUP, £4.50).



Hungry? Follow the signs

WHERE TO EAT

Brittany does not boast the sophisticated culinary tradition of Normandy but it has an abundance of good seafood, vegetables and chefs. Remember that many restaurants close on Sunday night and all day Monday. For first-class service and imaginative cooking try:

● **Vannes:** Régis Mahe, place Gare (97 42 61 41). Unpromising location on the outskirts of town but wonderful *bouillon de sole et coquillages*.

● **Concarneau:** Le Galion, 15 rue St-Guenolé, Ville Close (98 97 30 16). Soufflés are a speciality, as is the *cotriade*, half-way between a fish soup and stew. Brizany's answer to bouillabaisse, which is served here is seven leagues away from the simple sailor's supper it once was.

● **Rennes:** Palais, 7 place Parlement de Bretagne (99 79 45 01). Closed August 10-31. Specialises in milk-fed lamb and other products of Paul Renault's farm. Menus from FF120 (£12.50) to FF290 (£30.20).

For less complicated cooking try: ● **Saint-Thégonneac:** L'auberge Saint-Thégonneac, village centre (98 79 61 18). Reliable food and a pleasant ambience, well-placed for lunch or supper on the way to or from Roscoff.

● **Roscoff:** Chardons Bleus, 4 rue de l'Amiral Réveillère (98 69 72 03). Specialises in seafood.

Cheaper still are the crêperies in every square. The backwash of central Brittany was used in *galettes* as a substitute for bread. In the east, as a rule, they talk only about crêpes. In the west they use both words, but *galettes* are held to be thicker.

There is good cheap food, too, at the roadside shacks next to the *viviers*, the shellfish tanks. My favourite is the one at Le Vivier-sur-Mer, on the coastal road east from St-Malo: oysters and mussels fresh from their beds, chips, ice-cold Muscadet and a view over the bay to Mont-St-Michel.

Typical of a market bar is the Bar-brasserie l'Escarille (13 rue de la Monnaie, 99 79 33 15) in Rennes, where two can eat more than enough for less than FF150 (£15.60), and there is the added pleasure of watching the ingredients arriving from the market around the corner.

WHAT TO COOK

IF YOU are staying in a *gîte* or camping, Brittany offers a profusion of good things to inspire the most faint-hearted chef. Vegetables include potatoes, cauliflowers, carrots, globe artichokes, garlic and tomatoes. Fruit includes cherries, strawberries, melons and, in autumn, chestnuts. In spring, the *pré-salt* lamb (raised on the salt marshes near Mont-St-Michel) is hard to find but repays the effort. Many small farms raise free-range chickens, ducks, guinea fowl and rabbits. Oysters, mussels and scallops are cheap by British standards.

HOW TO GET THERE

Brittany Ferries operates on the Portsmouth-St Malo (nine hours) and Plymouth-Roscoff (six hours) routes. Standard return for a family of four and a car costs £311 in peak season. Reservations: The Brittany Centre, Wharf Road, Portsmouth PO2 8RU (0705 827701). Plymouth crossings: reservations: Millbay Docks, Plymouth, PO1 3EW (0752 221321). The company offers *gîtes d'intervilles* breaks, short-break motoring holidays (a three-night trip for two adults starts from £112, including bbq) and "foodloose" breaks for foot passengers. Reservations as above.

Brit Air flies daily from Gatwick to Brest, Quimper and Rennes. Write to: Brit Air, 1028 Long Bridge House, Gatwick Airport north terminal, West Sussex RH6 0NP (0293 502044).

● Peter Brown travelled with Brittany Ferries.

WHERE TO STAY



Healthy: St-Malo's Grand Hotel des Thermes

● **St-Malo:** Grand Hotel des Thermes, 100 boulevard Hébert (010 33 99 40 75 75). Outside the walls but on the seafloor, this is a *grande dame* of a hotel where the emphasis is on healthy luxury. Superbly appointed bedrooms, magnificent views. Floor-length bathtubs are provided for guests wishing to take advantage of the adjoining *thalassothérapie* centre (this is a feature of Brittany resorts: massage, seaweed, mud and hot sea-water). Accommodation ranges from a small single, FF340 (£35.40), to a marble suite, FF2,100 (£218.75).

Hotel France et Chateaubriand, Place Chateaubriand (99 56 66 52). The largest hotel within the walls of St-Malo, it stands next to the writer's birthplace and overlooks his burial site on the Grand Bâ. FF445 (£46.35) for a double room with a good view.

● **Rennes:** Le Piré, 23 rue Mar Joffre (99 79 31 41). Undoubtedly the most exclusive hotel in the city, it has only four rooms — all splendid. They must be reserved well in advance and cost between FF1750 (£78.10) and FF950 (£98.95) a night. Marc Angelle's Michelin-starred restaurant is a further attraction.

● **Vannes:** Hotel Mascotte, rue Jean-Monnet (97 47 59 60). A modern, inexpensive hotel within walking distance of the medieval centre. Rooms FF360.

● **Quimper:** La Tour d'Auvergne, 13 rue des Reguaires (98 95 08 70). A few minutes' walk from the cathedral. Rooms FF230-435 (£24-£45.30).

The Logis de France chain has a large selection of small to medium-sized hotels in Brittany which are family-run and value for money. The Logis guide is free from French Tourist Office (178 Piccadilly, London, W1) or by post (enclose 80p in stamps to cover postage). From the same address you can obtain a list of *gîtes*, but book several months in advance for *gîtes* near the coast.

There are eight *Relais* and *Châteaux* hotels in Brittany. They stand in their own grounds, grand country houses, some with self-catering apartments. Best cuisine is at those with the red "Relais Goumand" shield. The UK number for Relais and Châteaux information and bookings is 071-491 2516.

● **Camping:** Brittany is well supplied with campsites. Three favourites: Forne Camping le Vieux Chêne in Baguer-Pican, near Dol de Bretagne (99 48 09 55), has cider, butter, cheese, cooked chickens and pony rides available from the farm. Camping les Mouettes, Carantec (98 67 02 46), is just by the small seaside town custom-built for family holidays: sandy beaches, sailing, fishing, bird-watching and exploring the magical Ile d'Or when the tide allows. Camping le Menhir, St-Gildas-de-Rhuys (97 45 22 88), has *meublé* standing unmarked in a blackberry field near the tent. There is good sailing from the long beaches of the Presqu'île de Rhuys.

● **Climbing:** Plus guide gives 24 top campsites in the region. From the French Government Tourist Office, as above.

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Elle for leather, riding south

Louisa Young dons her crash helmet, pulls down her visor and dispenses advice to those about to tour France on a motorbike

Going off to the Languedoc last summer, I set out on that one day at the beginning of August when the whole of France leaves its desk and heads (by car) for the sea. Cruising down the outside of the great traffic jam from Dieppe to Toulouse, I overtook various friends and relations, and was able to have their orders waiting at the next café. I had been sitting with the lizards and the white wine in the sunset for a good while before they caught me up at our final destination. Why? Because I was on a motorbike.

The benefits start on the ferry. A bike's fare is less than a car's, logically, and the overland gnomes whose business it is to get vehicles into the bowels of ferries love motorbikes. *Tout Vient!* they cry, hauling you to the front of the queue as they load, and insisting that you disembark first at the other end. For the journey, they lash your beast to a rail around the edge of the bowels. It's as well to watch with friendly interest as they do so, it makes them careful.

Every French village smells of croissants between six and nine in the morning, and through the visor of a crash helmet is the best way to appreciate it. The logic behind this is simple. When riding you have to stop every hour or so for your health and safety, to stretch your legs, warm up, cool down, whatever. When you stop you take refreshments: in the morning, the three reviving Cs — coffee, croissant and calvados — can only have the calvados every other stop, because medicine and illegality overlap in this area. If you get off the night ferry at Sam, say, you can fit in a good four breakfasts.

As you head south and the day wears on not only can you smell your lunch as you cruise into town, but the varied scents of jasmine and rosemary, wild fennel and hot fig trees. The layers of leather and thermal underwear required for the cold of Britain, or of the early morning, gradually peel down. Behind many a tree on the roadsides to the south of Paris can be seen, if you look carefully, happy bikers discarding long johns and balacavans, and slipping their leather jackets on directly over their T-shirts. The moment of truth comes when you dispense with the full-



Kitted up: Louisa Young

face helmet in favour of an open-face one, with sun glasses.

Now you are truly on holiday, at one with the elements, person and machine in perfect harmony. The gorgeous hairpin bends of the slopes of the Ardèche valley are calling you. You have to relax. You are limited to speeds of less than 60mph, because if you go any faster your summer helmet will fly off. No rain will sting your smiling face now, no cold will creep down the back of your unprotected neck. Sunburn and greenery between the teeth (don't sing too gaily) are your only problems.

Soon you will need food and accommodation. In Britain, many institutions which should know better blanch at the sight of a person in biking gear. Only in France has a *maitre d'* offered to hang my rain-soaked leather jacket up in the kitchen to dry.

On one trip a very attractive Triumph Trident broke down rather badly, and the restaurateur insisted on parking it in the dining room until we came back with vital parts, three days later. He'd hoped we'd take three weeks.

Hotellers are usually happy to offer you a safe corner to park your machine overnight. This is very necessary, particularly in Paris where bike theft is rife. Even in the safest corner, lock it up and chain it to something.

The French like bikes. One pilgrimage is the Bol d'Or, a 24-hour motorcycle endurance, which takes place at Le Beausset, near Toulon, in the late summer. The motorways are free to motorbikes the weekend of the Bol d'Or (the tolls are lower for bikes than for cars anyway), and children in the neighbourhood come out to wave at all the bikes going past.

Down on the seashore at Bandol during this bike-mecca weekend, the very fashionable French contingent sit in cafés, British oils and Italian hairdressers, gentlemen bikers from the City and models from Paris mix on equal terms, because Levis and a motorbike make Marlon Brando of us all.

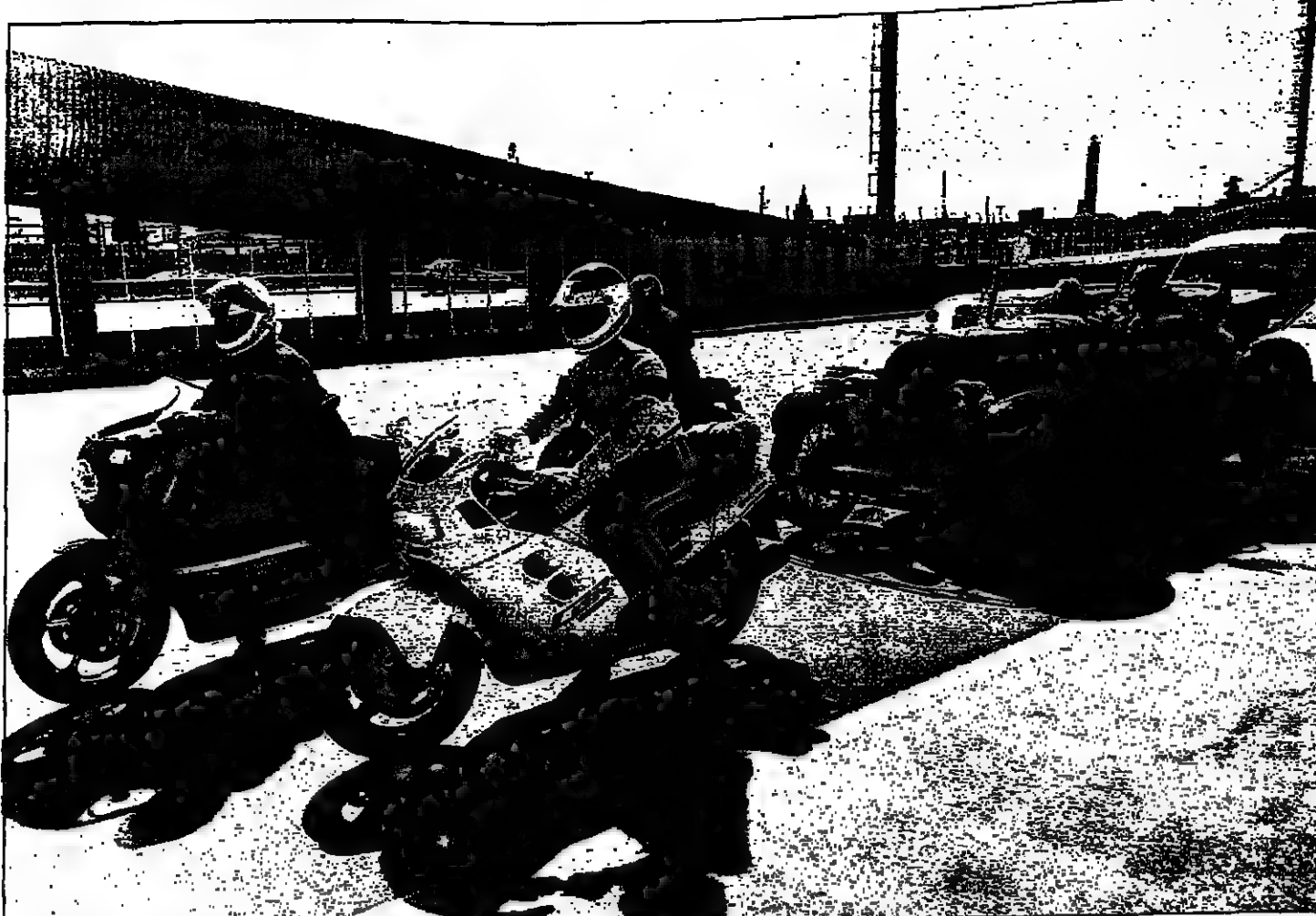
And posing abroad is somehow all right because at least you've got there, which gives natural credibility — getting there is a serious business as well as a pleasure.

If you've not taken a bike abroad before, you'll need to plan ahead. All the things which apply to cars in the way of paperwork apply to bikes, only more so. Bikes get stopped more often than cars, either because the officer in question dislikes them or because he likes them very much and hopes you might be over the limit so that he can ride it back to the station.

If you're at all likely to break down, get a service that will bring you home, such as AA Five-Star, especially if you have an arcane make of bike (basically anything not Japanese) for which spares might be a problem. The local blacksmith is usually only too happy to weld your footpeg back on, but that might not be what you want. In fact, get a relay service anyway, because people can drive into you, or you into them, anywhere.

Even the most unmechanical biker should take spare bulbs and sparkplugs (ready set to the right gap, and don't forget the plug-spanner, WD40 for when it rains (it will), and if the bike is chain-driven, the right spanner for adjusting it, plus chain lube. If you use an unusual grade of oil take a can of it. A bike that is not used to distance can gobble up unexpected amounts of things it normally hardly touches.

My sister, riding round the world on a Triumph, took a sidecar full of



Heading for the sun: if you take the night ferry you can enjoy at least four French breakfasts in between overtaking the traffic jams

moisturiser; another friend swears by toothbrush in one pannier and credit card in the other. But you'll need somewhere to put the tools and all those layers of clothing (remember to leave room for them when you pack), and you'll have to put your spare helmet somewhere.

Anyway it's nice to be able to transform yourself into a model of cleanliness and glamour when you've arrived. You could try keeping one pannier for clean things and one for grubby: the problem here is that tools tend to be heavier than Gigli shifts, and this unbalances the panniers. I'm still trying to get round this one.

No matter how waterproof your panniers claim to be, pack everything in plastic bags. Rain-soaked clothes dampen the spirits. Also, most leather clothing isn't actually waterproof. It gives the best protection against wind, it keeps you warm, it protects you if you come off the bike, but for staying dry you'll want nice lightweight waterproofs to wear over your leathers. And boots. Poor fools riding around in shorts and flipflops prove nothing but their own folly.

Incidentally, panniers are preferable to topboxes on a rack at the back of the bike: the lower the centre of gravity, the better the ride. If you have a rack, use it for sleeping bags or waterproofs, which will anyway be more com-

fortable for a pillion passenger to relax against.

Make sure everything is secure. Use elastic bungee cords, and pull them tight, and check every three you stop a) that they're still there and b) that nothing is fraying. Holes can be worn in throwover leather or plastic panniers remarkably quickly by a wheel going round at 60mph or by a hot exhaust pipe. One good thing about throwover panniers is that you (or your pillion) can sit on them, which helps to hold them in place. Little can spoil your trip like seeing your passport and underwear strewn across the fast lane of the Autoroute du Soleil.

Passengers, by the way, sometimes need burping on too. If you ride too smoothly, they can fall asleep. Be warned.



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USEFUL PHRASES

Fill it up: *faites-le plein.*
I want 20 litres of petrol: *Je veux vingt litres d'essence.*
Please put in some water: *Mettez de l'eau, s'il vous plaît.*
I also need some oil: *J'ai besoin de l'huile aussi.*
Can you fix a flat tyre? *Pouvez-vous réparer un pneu crevé?*

How long will it take? *Combien de temps ça faudra?*

Where does this road go to? *Où va cette route?*
Is this the road to...? *Est-ce la route de...*

May I park here? *Puis-je stationner ici?*

Where is the nearest garage? *Où est le garage le plus proche?*
This car isn't running well: *Cette voiture ne marche pas bien.*

I don't know what is wrong: *Je ne sais pas ce qu'il y a.*
I think it's... *Je crois que c'est...*

The accelerator: *l'accélérateur*

The air filter: *le filtre d'air.*
The battery: *la batterie.*
The brakes: *les freins.*
The carburettor: *le carburateur.*
The clutch: *l'embrayage.*
The lights: *les phares.*
The motor: *le moteur.*
The spark plugs: *les bougies.*

The tyres: *les pneus.*
The front wheel: *la roue avant.*
The back wheel: *la roue arrière.*

SLANG EXPRESSIONS

A reckless, bad driver: *Un chauffeur.*
To step on it, to put one's foot down (literally to press down on the mushroom): *appuyer sur le champignon.*
To drive off the road into a ditch or tree: *rentrer dans le décor.*
To go like a bat out of hell: *Conduire à la vitesse grand V.*
Move that worthless heap off the road: *Ote ce tas de ferraille de la circulation!*

SUSAN BELL

Your guide to the French festivals and good books

Summer music

AMBRONAY: The festival at Ambronay Abbey takes place every autumn over four weekends. Its main focus is on early music, and in particular the rediscovery of the 17th and 18th-century heritage. Information: Place de l'Abbaye, 01500 Ambronay. Tel: (010 33) 74 35 08 70. Sept 26 - Oct 18.

AMIENS: Held in and around the 13th-century cathedral of Amiens, the Festival des Cathédrales combines four weekends of music dominated by choral works with visiting ensembles. Conseil régional de Picardie, 11, mail Albert 1er, 80000 Amiens. Tel: (010 33) 22 97 37 Sept 11 - Oct 4.

BESANCON: The capital of Franche-Comté, surrounded by wooded hills and overshadowed by its citadel, is host to a major festival of orchestral and chamber music, which also takes in a Young Conductors Competition. This year there will be visits from the St Petersburg Philharmonic under Mariss Jansons, Pascal Devoyon, Ton Koopman, The Tallis Scholars, and the Vogler Quartet. Festival de Musique, 2d rue Isenbart, 25000 Besancon. Tel: (010 33) 81 80 73 26. Sept 4 - 18.



Loire lacework embroidery plays its part in all festivals

BRIVE: The Vézère International festival takes place in the listed 17th-century Chateau de Saillant, a Glyned-bourne-like setting, and in the magnificent churches of the Vézère valley situated near Brive. The classical music programme offers performances of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'amore* and Lehar's *The Merry Widow*. Festival de la Vézère, 11 place Jean-Marie-Dauzier, 19100 Brive. Tel: (010 33) 55 23 25 09. Until Aug 22.

CONCARNEAU: The old walled town of Concarneau, one of Brittany's most important fishing ports, is host to the Festival of the Blue Fishing Nets. Dancers form a whirlwind of lace and velvet to the sound of bagpipes. Information: (010 33) 98 97 01 44. Aug 23.

IRELAND, WALES, Isle of Man and Cornwall. There will be some 4,500 musicians, dancers, singers, modelers, lecturers, film-makers and writers. Information: 2 rue Paul Berr, 56100 Lorient. Tel: (010 33) 97 21 24 29. Aug 7 - 16.

LYON: The 5th Dance Biennial embraces the "passion of Spain" as its theme, aiming to present all forms of Spanish dance. Information: Maison de Lyon, place Bellecour, 69002 Lyon. Tel: (010 33) 72 40 26 26. Sept 12 - Oct 4.

MENTON: A chamber music festival with visits this year from the pianist Tatiana Nicolaeva and the young Russian virtuoso, Evgeny Kissin. Palais de l'Europe, ave Boyer, BP111, 06503 Menton. Tel: (010 33) 93 57 57 00. Aug 3 - 31.

PERIGUEUX: The International Mime Festival attracts contemporary companies, physical theatre troupes and street entertainers. Information: Centre Culturel de l'Antien, Cloître de la Visitation, rue Linné, 24000 Périgueux. Tel: (010 33) 53 53 55 17. Aug 3 - 12.

TOULOUSE: Inaugurated in 1978, this month-long festival is entirely devoted to the piano, with concerts in the Cloître des Jacobins. Information: 61 rue de la Pomme, 31000 Toulouse. Tel: (010 33) 61 22 40 05. Aug 28 - Sept 25.

KARI KNIGHT

SEYCHELLES STEPPING STONES

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THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly London to Mombasa, via Nairobi.

DAY 2 Mombasa Arrive and after a brief city excursion and lunch, embark on the MS Caledonian Star for a late afternoon sailing.

DAY 3 Lamu The island of Lamu is an extraordinary place, almost exclusively Muslim, it is Kenya's oldest living town. Its narrow streets, small cool courtyards and traditionally built houses have seen little change for centuries.

DAYS 4 & 5 At sea

DAY 6 Aldabra Referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as one of nature's treasures, which should belong to everyone. The surrounding exceptionally clear water, team with life, and a-bore organized walks with our naturalist and the warden will take us in search of the rare and endemic in Aldabra. Rightless white-throated rail. Your overnight.

DAY 7 Aldabra Return ashore for the morning and sail at lunchtime.

DAY 8 At sea

DAY 9 Desroches Another remote and heavenly island of

breathtaking beauty. Ideal for walks and swimming and perhaps a visit to the plantation.

DAY 10 Frigate and Praslin Morning visit to privately owned Frigate Island. Look out for the extremely rare magpie robin and try the mule fruit juice, prepared by the only hotel on the island. Sail during lunch to Praslin famous for its tropical rain forest reserve and the Cascade-Mère.

DAY 11 La Digue and Aride La Digue has enormous charm and a life-style little changed in centuries. There are no cars so exploration is on foot, cycle or on foot. Once visited you will want to return. Sail during lunch to Aride Island which is run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature. It is best known for its breeding sea-bird colonies - during May to July more than a million birds are resident on this tiny one mile long island. In addition to the amazing variety of birdlife, there is a wonderful Victorian plantation house and crop of paw paw, banana and guava.

DAY 12 Mahe Arrive in the morning and disembark for a night stay at the Plantation Club.

DAYS 13, 14 & 15 Mahe At leisure.

DAY 16 Mahe-London Evening departure for London.

DAY 17 London (Gatwick) Arrive in the morning.

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● *Michelin Red Guide: France*, Michelin £11.95. All the hotels.
● *Paris: The Rough Guide* by Kate Baillie and Tim Salmon. Penguin £6.99. Lively and clear, includes guitar makers as well as museums.

HISTORY

● *Montaillou* by Emmanuel de Roy Ladurie. Penguin £8.99. Revelatory book, based on Latin confessions, about shepherd life in the 14th century.
● *Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution* by Simon Schama. Penguin £14.99. Brilliant narrative. Supports the

current French view that the Revolution was a mistake.
● *Words* by Jean Paul Sartre. Penguin £5.99. Sartre's memoir of his childhood: witty, sardonic and absorbing.

LIFE IN FRANCE

● *Down and Out in Paris and London* by George Orwell. Penguin £4.99. Orwell's account of working in Paris restaurants is still worth reading. (And it does not put one off one's food.)
● *A Year in Provence* by Peter Mayle. Pan £5.99. Swoon over the South.

FICTION

● *Scarlet and Black* by Stendhal. Penguin £5.99. One of the great novels of the world: the young outsider Julien Sorel climbs through church, aristocracy and love to his own destruction.

● *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert. Penguin £4.99. Tragedy of frustration in the French provinces.
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● *Chéri* by Colette. Penguin £6.99. Romance at its most Parisian.

● *Maigret and the Burglar's Wife* and *Maigret and the Madwoman* by Simenon. Penguin £3.99 each. Famous detective of sleazy Paris.

OTHERS

● *French Provincial Cooking* by Elizabeth David. Penguin £12.99. As enjoyable to read as to eat out of. Collins Robert Concise Dictionary and Collins Robert Paperback Dictionary. (HarperCollins £9.95 and £3.95)

DERWENT MAY

Sad song of sixpence for my enormous pocketful of rye

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

Let you should think that I am becoming in any way a competent farmer, let me tell you a story that has been brought to mind by the approach of the harvest season. To adapt the old nursery rhyme, it is a song with, alas, no sixpence in it, but an enormous pocketful of rye.

One of the first crops that I grew when we came here was rye. I was encouraged by my library of aged farming tomes, whence cometh all my understanding of traditional farming. Of rye they say, "a rank growth so succulent... the earliest food for sheep..." Of the grain they remark, "on the Continent it forms the principal article of food of the labouring classes".

It was clear that rye is one of those hardy crops, thrifty in its ways and willing to grow under farming conditions as barren as Blackpool beach. It sounded exactly the copper-bottomed sort of crop a

beginner ought to grow. Except that I didn't want a crop of mature rye. I wanted a field of fresh, sprouting rye shoots on which to graze the stock.

Rye is a rapid grower and even by the middle of January when all other growth has come to a freezing halt, it is safe to graze it lightly with sheep without doing any permanent damage. It is also good for the sheep to have some fresh green feed at a time when it is scarce, and it is even better for the other meadows, for there is no temptation to turn out the flock when the grass ought to be resting.

But what no book warned me about was the staying power of this stuff. Rye clings to the earth like a drunk to a bar at closing time. Sure



enough, our October-sown crop flourished, and by February the sheep were gobbling as much as they could handle. In fact, at one stage we brought in an extra hundred sheep just to keep the flourishing rye in check. Within a fortnight, the hungry ewes had grazed it bare until the shoots met the dust. I sent the visiting flock home with thanks. Within a fortnight, and despite cripplingly low temperatures, the rye was up and fighting again. I rang the shepherd. The hundred ewes returned and poured out of the lorry like a peckish old-folk's outing drawing up at a Little Chef. One week and it was all gone. The ewes went home.

Three weeks later the rye was back and sprouting even more



vigorously in the increasing warmth of the lengthening days. It had survived two huge attacks, and desperate measures were called for. We used sprung-tined harrows: a vicious wide-toothed comb which

runs backwards and forwards until every fleck of green has been removed from the landscape. I looked at the field when we had finished, thanked the rye for the valuable service it had provided in

feeding the sheep through the winter, and apologised for putting such a brutal end to its life.

Within a week, it was back. Like an unwelcome relative waving from the approaching train, the slender green shoots were once again swaying depressingly in the spring breezes. I called an end to the game, admitted defeat, and let the crop grow to maturity. We harvested it with the binder, grudgingly carted it to the stack, and reluctantly put it through the threshing machine to extract the grain.

But the worst was yet to come. I thought that at least for all my efforts I would now have several tons of rye for sale and could look forward to a profit on the whole tormenting exercise. But the few grain dealers we rang did not seem very interested. I told them that those Rytia people must be crying out for it, but they were not swayed.

In desperation I screamed: "But what about the labouring classes on the Continent? Surely they would welcome it?"

Having persuaded nobody of its value, we humped the bags on to a trailer and hid them in a dark recess of the barn. Throughout the past year the mice have gnawed holes in theessian sacks and my hard-harvested grain has trickled out like the sands of time.

I don't suppose anyone will give me any credit for reducing the grain mountain, which we are all being urged to do. After all, there is no greater sacrifice a farmer can make than to grow his corn and then feed it to the mice.

I had given up hope and was considering a bonfire when a pig farmer said he'd give me sixty quid for the lot. I added up the costs of producing it, the man-hours in cutting, carting and threshing. Result: lots of rye, very few sixpences.

Spin-doctor for web weavers

Peter Freedman meets a spider consultant who thinks that the humble British arachnid has had a bad press

There are nearly half a million spiders in the back of Stephen Knapp's green minivan. Not that conditions in the vehicle are cramped as a result. Far from it. The spiders, which float in alcohol-filled tubes packed in a small box, take so little space that there is room for several million there.

These are just the latest batch of specimens Mr Knapp has collected on his assignment as spider consultant to a nature reserve in Oxfordshire. Like the dozen or so county councils and nature trusts that have hired him in this capacity before, the reserve wants him to report back on the variety and number of spiders to be found on its patch.

"Spiders can be a good indicator of the health of the habitat," he says. "They are predators, and for there to be a good range of spiders, there has to be a good range of lower invertebrates to prey on."

Clients use his findings in conjunction with surveys on other species to help to decide how to manage the habitat. "Also, if you discover a particularly rare species breeding somewhere, the site will automatically be protected from development," he says.

Mr Knapp, aged 31, first became interested in spiders when he decided to leave his job as a City pensions manager to take a course in countryside management, for which applicants needed a year's relevant experience.

The nearest thing he could find was a job with the London borough of Wandsworth's conservation unit, which entailed spending a year studying the borough's spiders. He went on to take the intended course and now, when not

spider-consulting, works as warden at Pagham Harbour nature reserve, near Chichester, in West Sussex.

There are nearly 700 species of spider in Britain, of which Mr Knapp has spotted barely half in the eight or nine years he has been on the trail "in any serious way". He is unlikely ever to sight all Britain's species. Apart from anything else, new ones are being discovered all the time, not least by Mr Knapp himself. He has already ticked off almost all the varieties he once aspired to spot.

Britain's richest patch for spiders is the South East, mainly because it is the warmest. "Heathlands are always good for spiders and there are a lot of good heathlands in Hampshire, Sussex, Surrey and Kent," he says. Soft coastlines, such as shingle beaches, are also favoured territory.

Nobody knows how many spiders there are in Britain, but a recent survey gave some clue by finding more than three million on an eight-acre site.

Mr Knapp adds that Britain's spider population is reckoned to consume the same weight in flies in a year as the collective weight of Britain's human population. This is all the more impressive, since some spiders do not eat flies. (They prefer wood lice, ants or underwater larvae.)

Britain's spider fauna is not, in fact, especially rich compared with that of some European countries, let alone tropical ones, of which the largest might house tens of thousands of species. Britain can, however, boast some un-

usual species, including some with just two eyes, compared with the usual eight.

"I've seen spiders the size of tea-plates in zoos," Mr Knapp says. Britain's largest — and rarest — is the Fen-Raft, which is not much bigger than the average house spider.

Indeed, most British spiders are so small that Mr Knapp has first to trap and kill them before studying them under a microscope.

He hunts them by methods ranging from a sweep-net (like a pillowcase on a pole) to a small petrol-driven vacuum cleaner, called a D-Vac. He catches others in pitfall traps, set by sinking jam jars in the ground until their rims are level with the surface, and then filled with an inch or so of a deadly mixture of anti-freeze and alcohol.

He concedes that it all sounds a bit barbaric, but it is for the long-term good of the species as a whole. This may be why he has so far faced no trouble from spider liberationists. "But, then not many people come across me when I'm out spider-hunting."

Every spider he despatches saves a large number of its prospective prey from a far grislier death. Spiders, he explains, first bite their prey, then inject them with a poison that kills or immobilises them and dissolves their internal organs into a soup. "The spider then sucks the carcass dry."

But while all spiders are poisonous to their prey, only one British species, *Sicaria pulchra*, is believed to be poisonous to human beings. (It is related to the Black Widow and the Redback.) Only the female is suspected of being poisonous, but so far



Spider man: Stephen Knapp, at the Pagham Harbour nature reserve, wants to encourage eight-legged friendships

only the male has yet been found in Britain. It is found on the Kent coast, to which, it is thought, it may have been blown over from France.

Mr Knapp feels that spiders are misunderstood creatures. Firstly, they are not insects but arachnids, part of the same family as scorpions. "And they have had a bad press from day one," he says.

"But they are an extremely desirable creature to have in your house. They keep down the mosquitoes, midges, flies and other creepy-crawlies and most are completely harmless to human beings." In fact, he suggests, they should be encouraged, which can be done simply by curing down on household dusting.

One of the things that attracts him to the study of spiders is that so little is known about them. Most of the site

records date from the Victorian era, when country vicars and other gentlemen naturalists pioneered the field. "You can make new discoveries all the time," he says.

"It's rather like entering the world of the birdwatcher 100 years ago."

records date from the Victorian era, when country vicars and other gentlemen naturalists pioneered the field. "You can make new discoveries all the time," he says.

"It's rather like entering the world of the birdwatcher 100 years ago."

Why the stork flies east

Feather report

We now know the truth about the former East Germany. It is a ruined land, polluted beyond belief, the residue of years of inefficiency and indifference. It is a dying land.

This is all true, but it is not all the truth. I saw that when I went on a wild stork hunt along the border-land that once separated East and West Germany. It was a spooky experience. The watch towers still punctuate the landscape, a broad strip of untended scrub still separates east from west. Politics inadvertently created a very long, very, very thin nature reserve. Reunited Germany intends to keep it that way. A sweet monument to decades of division.

The landscape changes dramatically either side of the border-line scrub. One side is ruined, smashed and polluted. The other side is heaving with life, clamouring with birdsong even this late in the year. You should have been here in the spring, they kept telling me: nightingales every hundred yards.

And here is the twist: the polluted side is in the west. The life is in the east.

It is an odd paradox. The industry of eastern Germany has been dreadful and prodigious: the agriculture has not. After the war, western Europe was taken up with a huge drive to intensify its agriculture. It happened in this country; it happened in western Germany. Hedges were mowed, ditches dug up, woods demolished, wetlands drained, grazing land ploughed. Produce or die: the farming industry suc-



High-living beloved stork

through freshly mown grass is as grand a sight as you will see.

The endless, hedgeless, pesticed and herbicided prairies of the European communities are no good for storks; they are not good for any bird. In the west, the storks are declining fast; in the east, they are doing fine. But for how much longer? Eastern Germany is in the EC now. Conservation must act now. This is a great opportunity.

I have taken a chocolate maker to show the way: a company called the Stork. The name is an auspicious coincidence: in German, the birds are *störche*. The company has formed the Stork Foundation, and it has coughed up £1 million.

White stork nesting sites are not the problem. The problem is feeding ground, and the Stork Foundation has been buying land in eastern Germany, where the white storks roam and feed.

There are plans for further investment and more purchases. The land will be managed for wildlife, kept wet and lightly grazed. Other species of birds, animals and plants will thrive alongside the stork in such splendid conditions.

A million quid? I wonder how long it will be before I can celebrate the first British company to write a cheque for a million pounds, every quid of it to go to conservation.

SIMON BARNES

What's about: Birds — watch for young goldfinches, which lack the red face patch of adults. Twitchees — Red-spotted blue-throat at Holme, Norfolk; peewee at Titchwell, Norfolk. Details: Birdline, 0898 700222.

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American echoes on a Cornish coast

Elizabeth Dickson finds how the stuff of dreams can become a reality

An old Cornish saying urges: "Go slow in haste," and this is how Joan Harkness has set about the transformation of a damp, seaside cottage into a cosy retreat. Picturesque, quaint, steep-hilled and tiny: a fishing village such as this is not just the stuff of nostalgia from which dreams of England are spun, for there is at least one port on Cornwall's northern coast which still remains unspoiled and lovely. Lanes weave round slate-roofed stone or playboard cottages with courtyards or terraced gardens, and one half expects to find a pirate with a parrot in the queue of the harbour fish shop.

High above the cormorants and caves, in a cul-de-sac where hollyhocks grow 12ft tall, is Vine Cottage, looking chipper in a fresh coat of pale green paint.

When househunting in April 1991, Ms Harkness had pleasant memories of time spent on the whaling island of Nantucket and also of Marblehead, America's oldest township, near Boston, which she later learnt was founded by Cornishmen. Increasingly, she had felt the need to live near the sea again, and last April, while down in Cornwall, noticed the similarity between the clapboard and shingled houses of Marblehead and several in this village. These were built by emigrants, who having made their money, came home, much influenced by transatlantic style. Hence such names as Chicago House.

Compounding all this, the atmosphere on that initial visit recalled holidays in her Irish childhood at Groomsport, near Belfast. After arranging with the local estate agent to view properties, all 11 she saw were deemed unattractive, for, as Ms Harkness explains, "I'm hardly over the doorstep before I can feel if a place is any good."

Another cottage for sale was first noticed during the climb back up the lanes that same evening. "I just knew it. That's the place for you," a friend said, and a little later an offer of £81,000 was accepted. Restoration, structural alterations and everything from local Delabole rose granite for a bathroom to plants from Trelawney Garden Centre at Wadebridge cost £25,000.

This mid-18th-century building, and what the new owner has done with it, demonstrates how, when space is at a premium, ingenuity is needed in planning to make more



Bared essentials: the 18th-century fireplace restored to its glory

of less. The galley kitchen, for example, with its microwave, and cupboards and fittings made out of cut-down vintage pine doors, is an efficient workplace.

There was still the smell of tobacco lingering in an upstairs room when Ms Harkness arrived, for this was the study where the vicar, whose home it had been, wrote his sermons. "The whole place is serene. Somehow there's a magical effect," she says. "Everyone who stays, wants to return."

Ms Harkness usually spends three days a week in Cornwall, driving the 240 miles from her London flat or her Chelsea shop, Jewels One.

Having ended up with the first-floor bathroom taps reversed, so the one indicating cold produces hot water, and with the two bedrooms down the passage decorated, the next move was to make an American-style main bedroom in yellows and white up on the top floor. Linked to it is the second gold-tipped bathroom, made in space created by burrowing further into the eaves.

What had not been counted on, however, were the seagulls who teach their young to fly from the roof, and Ms Harkness is thinking of laying wire mesh across the slates, as the birds, delightful as they may be, use the roof as their stopover, en route to the sea pools below.

From the courtyard garden (where a stone-columned arbour and purpose-built table are now in production), and just a step out

from the top-floor rooms, there is a view like an old water-colour of cliffs, fishing boats and sea.

As power cuts are frequent in this end of coast, storing food in the freezer is hazardous and anyway, to her dismay, she once returned to find guests had left the door of the freezer open.

Shopping is done in fits and starts, sometimes with a session at the hypermarket off the motorway, or by pottering to the local shops where prices are comparable to London — except for the cheaper and delicious fresh fish. Megrin sole from the quayside wholesaler is particularly good.

Often meals are eaten out, at Padstow's good fish restaurants, and inland at Chapel Amble. The Malster Arms is well known for its mauls. A memorable meal for two or more is to take lobsters (the mid-June price is £4.90 a lb) or dressed crab (£1.30 each) with wine to the rocks, there to break the shells and eat to the sound of waves. And to wash hands in the sea.

Once unpacked, the car must be left at the top of the steep 1:4 hill outside the cottage. The alternative, costly method of travel — taxi to the station in London, return fare to Bodmin, and keeping the car at the station there — has been abandoned as impractical.

Sometimes, there is time to join the village aerobics class on arrival, but whatever the hour, once inside the cottage, the prevailing sense is of being perpetually on holiday.

The restoration and conversion work is almost complete. A lantern hangs by the front door, a small plaster angel, bought in San Fran-

cisco, is stuck on the gothic gate and the flower borders in the front terrace garden have been added to and strengthened with white-washed cement.

Certain initial problems sound nightmarish. Not only did the original slate floor have to be dug up and relaid properly, as it had been laid directly on to the earth, but the front-of-house vine, whose cuttings down the generations are passed on to most of those grown on other houses nearby, was found to be growing indoors. The roots had spread themselves comfortably down into the foundations of the building. Next, in times of flooding, a stream from the hillside into which Vine Cottage leans, began to meander over the sitting-room floor.

Today all is dry indoors, with the asbestos wall panels thrown away and original brickwork exposed. One of the most rewarding results has been to see the 18th-century fireplace, with its old fan-laid brick surround, re-emerge as layers of wall covering were painstakingly chipped away.

Vine Cottage is decorated with more seascapes reminders. There is a shell-framed mirror above a handbasin, and in the sitting-room a framed print of Boston Bay, a watercolour of Nantucket rooftops and two paintings by Chris Dearden of Antrim Bay. A mug from the nearby pottery has a lobster motif.

In the very private, rear suntrap garden, where walls are white-washed to help the plants to grow better, seashore-loving plants include cascades of the ubiquitous pink Swan River daisy. In summer, everywhere around there is pink or white valerian fringing dry-stone walls.

"Cornwall is a phase in my life, so I embrace it," Ms Harkness says. "I've never prepared myself for being somewhere forever, although one day I'll want a warmer climate." Meanwhile someone who works for other people in the village calls in every other day to water the plants and check all is in order. Friends constantly come to stay. For them, as for the owner, Sir John Betjeman (whose resting place is close by) pinpointed the attraction of the spirit of place. When he wrote in *North Coast Recollections*: "Atlantic bells and birds! Were layer on interchanging layer of sound."



Basic instinct: Joan Harkness knew Vine Cottage was right as soon as she crossed the threshold

Basking under Cromwell's guns

HOUSE HUNTER

Compton End
Hampshire

Compton End, three miles from Winchester, epitomises the classic country farmhouse. Timber-framed under a thatched roof, the Grade II listed Elizabethan house oozes charm and pretentiousness, but there are hidden depths. Compton End was home to some of Cromwell's forces during the siege of Winchester.

At the time it was the only property in the area, and village folklore has it that one of Cromwell's generals stayed in the main house, while his troops were quartered in the four original barns, one of which is still standing. Nobody is sure that Cromwell himself stayed there but it is likely that he did when he took charge of the siege in the autumn of 1645.

As the old capital of England, Winchester was a staunchly royalist stronghold. It surrendered after Cromwell ordered a bombardment from the top of a nearby hill, still called Oliver's Battery.

One of the best views of the hill is from the south-facing timber-balustraded balcony that leads off the main bedroom and is ideal for sunbathing. Inside, when the weather cools, the open fireplace with an oak surround is an asset, but the narrow hanging cupboards, typical



City dweller's ideal: Compton End, near Winchester, gives the impression that time has stood still

of most of the bedrooms, are a definite drawback. Extra storage space is available on the first-floor landing, however.

The rooms have low-beamed ceilings and the abundance of oak makes the house seem dark, but there is a refreshing feeling of time standing still.

"We've had a lot of interest from Londoners. When they're sitting in the city dreaming of escaping to the country, Compton End is what they imagine," says Simon de Boinville, of the agency John D. Wood.

The original square of the house is 16th century, with the front entrance and conservatory added later by the architect G.H. Kitchen, who lived in the house from 1894 and carried out much of the restoration work in the Arts and Crafts style popular with the Victorians.

The property includes an acre and a half of gardens designed by Kitchen. They are divided into the formal garden, with sundial, pond garden and parterre with clipped box borders, and the more informal

kitchen garden and orchard, with ancient mulberry tree and a pink summerhouse, which is also Grade II listed.

The open fields that would have surrounded Compton End in Cromwell's time have been largely swallowed up by modern houses, but it is still a peaceful setting, even with the busy M3 is close by.

GILL ELLIOTT

Offers around £350,000 to John D. Wood's Winchester office (0962 863131).

Glaciers and hot baths



Buyer's France
AIN

Bains will cost at least £50,000; and two or three-bedroom flats cost from £70,000 to £200,000.

Prices are slightly lower in the surrounding towns and villages, such as Ornex, Grilly and Ferney-Voltaire, with their pretty half-

timbered houses and market squares. A few minutes' drive from Geneva airport and the Swiss frontier, a large detached house with three or four bedrooms, modernised kitchen, bath and small garden, costs about £150,000.

The proximity of Switzerland is one attraction of this part of France. Many people prefer to live in France, where living is cheaper, but work in Switzerland, where wages are higher. The Swiss issue a special work permit for this purpose. This is restricted to foreigners who have lived and worked in Switzerland for five years, but this could change next year, with the Swiss application to join the European Community. A change is likely to push up property prices on the French side of the border.

CHERYL TAYLOR

Alpine Apartments Agency, Hinton Manor, Bodeland, Loomister, Herefordshire (05447 234).

A useful and detailed book, *Live and Work in France*, by Mark Hemphill, is published by Vacation Work, 9 Park End Street, Oxford, at £6.95.



Border post: detached house at Ornex, near Divonne-les-Bains

Heap of the week

Empty shell hides a hoard of history

not marked on the Ordnance Survey map.

Ranton's fascinating history has been unravelled in an archaeological paper commissioned by Lichfield Estates. In the middle of the 12th century a small priory of Augustinian canons was founded here by Norman knights, the Noel family, and by 1280 had grown around a cloister.

Today the sole visible survivor is a tall stone tower, added to the church in the 15th century. But the monks' refectory forms the core of the present house and an undercroft survives beneath.

At the dissolution of the monasteries Ranton Abbey was acquired by Sir Simon Harcourt. His descendant, Robert Harcourt, mortgaged all his Staffordshire properties several times over before setting off to found a small English colony in Brazil in 1609 (a venture which foundered for lack of funds).

The house passed to the Copes. Sir Jonathan Cope commissioned William Baker, an architect of Audlem in Cheshire, to remodel the house in stages, and Ranton only finally assumed its present form in the 1820s — a typical three-storey Staffordshire box with

unusually bold pediments on the end gables.

As Shugborough becomes thronged with visitors, Lord Lichfield plans to rebuild Ranton for his son.

A pleasant new Georgian house has been designed by Francis Johnson, contrived so that the existing stable block is one of a pair of matching wings flanking a forecourt.

The old house, however, would simply be reduced to a single-storey shell, with the medieval remains exposed to view inside. Rightly, neither the local authority nor English Heritage are happy with so radical a treatment of a scheduled ancient monument, and the minister has indicated he will refuse the scheme.

Nobody, however, is against the idea of restoring the existing shell. Though, strangely irregular, it is a fine sight with wonderful potential for reconstruction.

MARCUS BINNEY



Bristling with potential: Ranton, in Staffordshire, is crying out for some sympathetic restoration

Give plants a happy holiday

With the schools out and family holidays starting, Francesca Greenoak passes on her advice for preparing and maintaining the garden while you are away

A gardening friend of mine takes her holidays in the Caribbean during February, with scarcely a backward glance at her quiescent garden. It is a different story for those of us locked into the school holiday straits. But what should we do in a year which could equally well cook the garden in blazing sun as deposit (as it did in my district) a fifth of the normal annual rainfall in 24 hours?

If there is one thing which buffers a garden against the extremes of weather it is a good rich soil, with plenty of plants in it so there are no bare patches of ground. Building up the soil structure with well-rotted manure and garden compost, so that it will hold moisture in times of drought and not flood or wash away in heavy rain, is a long-term policy but for immediate purposes you can weed thoroughly, water plants at the roots and apply a bark-mulch.

Although I live in an area where water hoses are not banned, I water very little, partly from environmental conscience and partly because I feel plants are better equipped to fend for themselves if their roots go down deep to find water rather than depending on the hose.

With watering in mind, restrain any tendency to impulse-buy before going on holiday, because newly planted trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, particularly those in flower, need extra watering in the early weeks.

I have a house-minder who will look after the animals and pot plants, but I am also encouraging friends and neighbours who have offered to drop by while I am away, because it makes the place look busy and means that container plants and hanging baskets, which dry out quickly even if they are

placed all together in the shade, will get extra watering. My young vegetables will also need a little attention, so I am asking my friends to keep an eye on these. Blackcurrants and dessert gooseberries are fruiting nicely and will serve as a Thank You for helpers, who can also help themselves to salad greens and vegetables.

If you are away for only a week, you can leave houseplants in a cool place after watering them thoroughly. Longer than that, and pot plants inside and out will need the services of a friendly neighbour. Make the job easier by assembling the containers together in a shady place in the garden and ensure watering cans (and plant food if necessary) and hoses are at hand.

Theft from gardens is a growing problem. You do not need to be the owner of an expensive ride-on mower to suffer, so move power-tools such as hedge-cutters to a secure place: a cellar or lock-up garage. Do the same with portable staves and ornaments.

It is salutary to reflect how much even basic hand tools would cost to replace. Before going on holiday, check with your insurance company that you are covered for theft of tools, plants and artefacts from your garden.

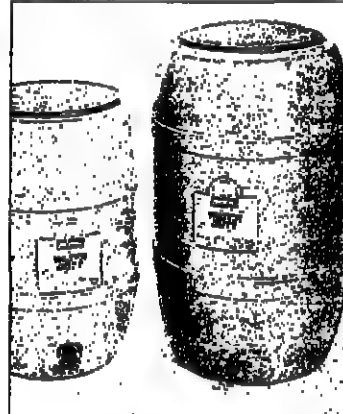
Finally, the last few days before going away will be fraught, so plan hedge-cutting, mowing the lawn and weeding to avoid a last-minute panic. The most important thing is to remove weeds, which can sprout from tiny shoots to seedling very rapidly in summer. Do not make the mistake of scalping your grass as hot sun on an unusually short lawn will damage it, whereas longer grass can easily be cut short in stages on your return.



Daily must: beautiful hanging baskets like these, and container plants, need regular watering

BEST BUYS

A WATER butt is a good buy in summers such as this when rain seems to hold off for weeks and then come all at once in heavy downpours. There are several types of plastic butts on sale at DIY stores and garden centres, holding from 114 litres (25½ gallons) to 271 (nearly 60gals). Openings can be cut to accept the rainwater downpipe. Taps should be low on the butt so that all the water can be drained. Among the most economical butts is Pysu's, which comes with cover and low-level tap at £20.25 for 114 litre size.



Drip feed: butts catch the rain

WEEKEND TIPS

- Lift garlic bulbs and dry them in the sun when the leaves turn yellow.
- Pick food produce regularly to ensure continuous cropping.
- Keep lawn edges neat with a trimmer or long-handled shears.
- Prune deutzias, shaping them by cutting out about half of the shoots which flowered earlier this year.
- Ensure newly planted herbaceous plants and shrubs have adequate water, particularly if they are in flower.

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

SUSAN HAMPSHIRE

Actress



Where would you go? St Paul-de-Vence, the walled mountain village in the south of France. I would go out of season — after October and before the Cannes Film Festival in May, when the weather is very pleasant. My mother took me and my sisters there when I was 15 and I've been going back ever since.

How would you get there? By super-deluxe train; I'm frightened by air travel.

Where would you stay? In a room with a good view and a south-facing balcony at the Colombe d'Or, where I've been going for years. My first husband was a Frenchman and when he was ill he lived at the Colombe d'Or for six months.

Who would be your perfect companions? My husband and my son.

What essentials would you take? My glasses, feather pillow, mono water ski, jacket and gloves.

Which medicines? Homeopathic Arnica cream and Arnica tablets. They're cure-alls; you can rub the cream on bumps and bruises and take a tablet when you're feeling exhausted.

What would you have to eat? Organically grown salad, vegetables, poultry, eggs and goat's cheese. Fish from unpolluted sea and two spoonfuls of caviar for my brain.

What would you have to drink? Safe cool water from source, or Evian water and just a little 1984 Laurent-Perrier.

What would you take to read? Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, Laurie Lee's *Cider with Rosie* and Peter Beale's book on roses.

What music would you listen to? Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky.

What film would you watch? *Napoleon*, the silent seven-hour version, accompanied by Carl Davis and a full symphony orchestra. I'd also like to watch *Pretty Woman* and *Gone With the Wind*.

Would you play any sport? Swim, and mono-ski on calm water in glorious weather behind a Ski Nautique boat, which makes very small waves. When I started doing musicals I stopped skiing because I had to be careful not to get a sore throat and lose my voice.

What piece of art would you like to have there? Any drawings by Matisse, and I'd like to be able to look at the Chagall stained-glass window in the cathedral of Notre Dame in Reims — perhaps I could have the maquette he would have made first.

Who would be your least welcome guest? Anyone other than the person driving the ski boat, cooking, or playing the violin or penny whistle in the village square.

What three things would you leave behind? Bills, tax forms and the memory that I am a Name at Lloyd's.

What three things would you most like to do? Catch up with paper-work and finish it all; sit outside in the warm sun with a lemon tea, or at sunset with a glass of wine and a piece of cheese, and watch spiders scurrying along stone walls; put on flat shoes, leave my handbag behind, and go to the Fondation Maeght in St Paul-de-Vence to look at the contemporary paintings and the Giacomettis.

To whom would you send a postcard? My agent and my husband's office.

What souvenir would you bring home? Lemons and figs from the trees.

What would you like to find when you get home? No sour milk in the fridge and the window boxes and tubs watered.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

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Business is booming in museums and galleries, where the shops are as popular as the exhibits. Belle Grey reports

And for those who have always enjoyed popping into the National Gallery or the V&A, their shops have added glamour and excitement. The shop boasts the same kind of gallery — but here you get to take things home. What better badge of culture than a scarf from the British Museum, a T-shirt from the Royal Academy or a piece of jewellery from the V&A? And no one need be uncertain about their taste — look at the success of the Venus drop-pearl earrings which were copies from a painting in New York's Metropolitan Museum; these were good enough for Rubens.

Or, a few years back, the spectacular popularity of the Tizio anglepoise lamp, which was one of the objects not only on sale in the shop

gned for an exhibition last winter at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, but exhibited in a glass case as well.

Despite the recession in the high street, museum shops are holding their own. A moral and aesthetic superiority clings to their merchandise. Museums are seen as good things, so their wares seem to offer some added value, or special authenticity. We don't mind indulg-

to do well with sales of Christmas decorations linked to "The Sacred Art of Tiber", an exhibition which opens in September.

says, "so that it can be a commercial success as well as an aesthetic and educational success."

Of course, more people through

Michael Cass, the head of V&A Enterprises. "It was the same with the Fornasetti exhibition last year." So how much say does he have in

"It hasn't happened yet," Mr. Cass says, "but there's no reason why it shouldn't." Already, he says,

why it should not. Already, he says, V&A Enterprises is involved in plans for a big exhibition about the Gothic Revival architect and designer A.W.N. Pugin, planned for the mid-1990s. "We're discussing what it is going to be like," Mr. Cass

Now, where do I pay?

[illegible]

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**TWILLS
THAT WILL**

BBC1

- 6.35 **Open University:** Harvesting the Sun 7.00 Klein's Unification of Geometry (1732551)
7.25 **News and weather** (6235552) 7.30 **Halle Spencer:** Puppet show (1893007) 7.50 **Babar:** Cartoon adventures of the royal elephant (1433011) 8.15 **New Lassie** (1) (CeeFax) (1271583) 8.35 **The Jetsons:** Animated fun with the space-age family (2371380)
9.00 **Parallels:** 9. Roddy Maude-Roxby, Helen Atkins, Jenny Bolt, Dominic McHale and Kevin Williams are joined by Jason Donovan, Kristian Schmid and Right Said Fred (s) (1931562) 10.47 **Weather** (9515583)
10.50 **Olympic Grandstand** introduced by Steve Rider in Barcelona who takes a look at the personalities who could be making the Olympic headlines during the next fortnight. Plus Cricket: live coverage of the third day's play in the fourth Test between England and Pakistan at Headingley (s) 1.00 News and Racing from Ascot: the Witterbach Diamond Stakes (2.00); the Princess Margaret Stakes (2.35); and the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes (3.20) (10.50-1.00 87166496, 1.00-5.00 8942729)
5.00 **News and weather** (9325458)
5.10 **Regional news and sport** (2370545)
5.15 **Cartoon** (2379816)
5.20 **Summer Rental** (1985): Low-key comedy starring John Candy as a blue collar worker determined to take his family on holiday to Florida. Directed by Carl Reiner (1648859)
6.45 **Olympic Grandstand:** Desmond Lynam presents live coverage of the opening ceremony from the Olympic Stadium in Barcelona. David Coleman provides the commentary (s) (30280598)
10.10 **News and sport** with Michael Buerk. (CeeFax) Weather (880477)



Leader of the pack: futuristic warrior Mel Gibson (10.30pm)

- 10.30 **Film: Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome** (1985): Mel Gibson and Tina Turner star in the third of the futuristic adventures. Directed by George Miller and George Ogilvie. (CeeFax) (41653800)
12.10am **Film: Madigan** (1968) starring Richard Widmark as a tough New York detective who is given 72 hours to bring in a deranged killer. Directed by Don Siegel (9241711)
1.50 **Weather** 21.58.13

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